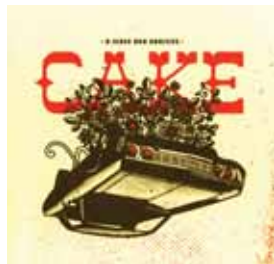




Things Happen for a Reason Che'Nelle

(Stomp)
Che'Nelle is a new R&B talent and this debut album is R&B at its best. It has some club-jumping tunes, including the single *I Fell in Love With The DJ*, but it also has some slower songs like *When We Will Meet Again*. Basically a mix of classic R&B and hip-hop, it's easy to imagine hearing the songs in clubs around Australia, either remixed or the originals. Details: www.myspace.com/chenelleworld
Laura Timberlake



B-Sides and Rarities Cake

(Upbeat Records)
Cake's latest album, *B-Sides and Rarities*, is as bland and boring as its beige album cover. The album is heavily peppered with a diverse range of cover songs, from their brilliant take on Black Sabbath's *War Pigs* to the irritating *Mahna Mahna* and the lifeless rendition of Frank Sinatra's *Strangers in the Night*. Most tracks feature the droning vocals of lead singer, John McCrea with the occasional mid-song trumpet solo. Except for one or two decent, *B-Sides* is disappointing.
Lisa Ritchie



LateNightTales Fatboy Slim (Stomp)

This compilation by Fatboy Slim includes some well-known artists such as Angie Stone, Velvet Underground, Sly Stone and Fatboy himself with an exclusive cover version of Radioactivity. Fatboy Slim says he picked songs old friends and lovers had made for him. Many are from the previous generation of music, and some are relatively unknown. It's a good mix that can only be described as old-school. Details: www.latenighttales.co.uk
Laura Timberlake

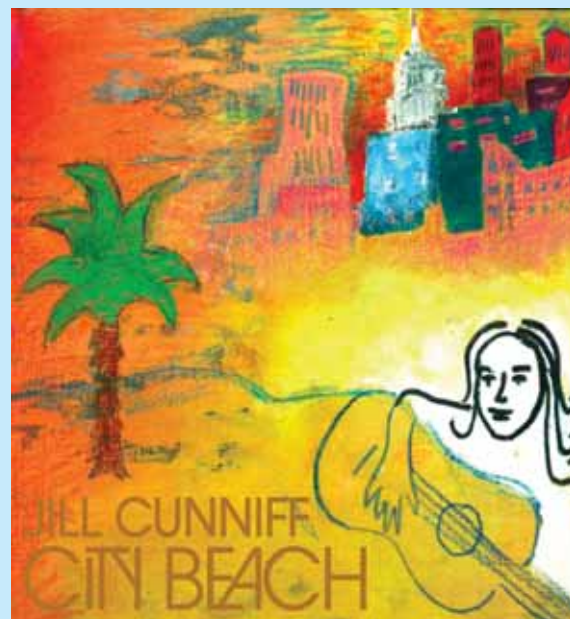
Road trip sound

City Beach is Jill Cuniff's debut solo album. She was originally the lead singer for pop band Luscious Jackson. Inspired by Coney Island, New York, the tracks on this album have a soft yet edgy sound, representing Cuniff's perceptions of a 'city beach'.

Cuniff grew up in New York and has been playing with various bands since age 15. She still lives in New York city, and *City Beach* was recorded at her home studio there.

This album would be a great buy for a summer road trip. It's the Australian definition of "cruisy" at its best. *City Beach* would also be great background music for a low-key summer party.

More information on Jill is available from her website www.jillcuniff.com
Laura Timberlake



Quirky festivals still there

"Explore the hundreds of Summer gigs Australia has to offer"

Ahh, festival season. To be honest, it's all a bit boring. Same bands, same set-up, same sweaty crowds.

Big Day Out, Good Vibration and Falls Festival are the

three main culprits. Why not ignore the same old stuff this summer and go on a festival adventure with some of the more obscure musical events?

Chill Island is one of the best value festivals this

summer. Staged on beautiful Churchill Island (near Phillip Island), this one day event boasts an awesome line-up including Paul Kelly, Ben Kweller, Clare Bowditch and Goyte, to name a few. For \$50 concession, what more could you possibly want?

This year's talent includes Sarah Blasko (pictured), The Hoodoo Gurus and The Black Lips gracing this three day party's natural amphitheatre stage. Held on December 14, 15 and 16th, in bushland 20 minutes from Ballarat, Meredith is a tad pricey. But the cost, which comes in at over \$150, includes all camping and some of the best bands you

could hope for in a line-up.

For those up for a back-to-basics experience head to Tribadella, the four day music, arts and lifestyle festival. Held over New Year's Eve in a lush location with the perfect swimming spots, it seems like a nice cure to all the 'falls festivalitis' that's been striking everyone down of late. The organizers claim it's a 'two hour drive' from Melbourne, but specific details on the location are missing. Could be quite an adventure!

There you have it - three events to reignite your faith in quirky festivals and save your wallet a fair bit in the process.
Lucy Martin



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