

# Big names promise big album releases in 2011

by Alexander Hess

As people struggle to maintain their New Year's resolutions, 2011 is keeping its promise of delivering good music. In addition to new, fledgling artists, this year will see the return of many well-established and well-loved groups, featuring names from Dr. Dre to U2 and Lady Gaga to Radiohead.

This year will mark the long-awaited return of former N.W.A. member Dr. Dre, who plans to release *Detox* this month, his first LP in more than ten years. The veteran producer and rap artist is

photo by Alexander Hess



currently readying for the release of the album's second single, "I Need a Doctor," following the Snoop Dogg- and Akon-assisted "Kush." "I'm really excited about *Detox*," said junior and longtime Dr. Dre fan Forrest Quay. "I hope it reiterates the art of his earlier work."

Rock powerhouse U2 plans to release their 13th studio album in 2011 entitled *Songs of Ascent* as a sister to 2009's *No Line on the Horizon*. The album will feature songs that were among the 50 to 60 written and recorded during the

*Junior Dan Tomredle listens to some of his favorite artists, R.E.M. and Radiohead.*

sessions for *No Line*, but unfitting with the mood of the album. According to vocalist Bono, *Ascent* will be "a more meditative album on the theme of pilgrimage."

Alternative rock favorite R.E.M. will release their fifteenth studio album, *Collapse into Now*, on March 8, 2011. Bassist Mike Mills has described the thought process behind the album as "more expansive" and the themes as "more universal" than those of their previous release, containing a mixture of slower and more upbeat tracks, centered around the individual and the world.

Also in March, alternative hip-hop artist Lupe Fiasco will make his third release. The album, titled *LASERS*, reported to be a backronym for "Love Always Shines, Everytime Remember 2 Smile," features guest vocals from Trey Songz and John Legend, as well as others.

Yet, the name that most music fans are looking forward to hearing from this year is pop sensation Lady Gaga, who will drop her second LP, *Born This Way*, on May 23, 2011. According to

Gaga, the massive 17-track album will be a mixture of electronic, rock, pop, anthemic and even "metal"-influenced melodies layered over "head-sledging dance beats." The album is intended to be "the anthem for [her] generation for the next decade."

Lady Gaga's "little monsters" are abuzz with anticipation for the album, whose eponymous lead single which dropped on

Friday, February 11. "I saw her play in the summer, and she played some of her new stuff. I'm excited to

hear how it all came together on the album," said senior Sarah Zimkind.

Other acts scheduled to make releases this year include classic rock favorite Rush (*Clockwork Angels*), post-hardcore act Dance Gavin Dance (*Downtown Battle Mountain Part II*), Snoop Dogg (*Dogumentary*), Wiz Khalifa (*Rolling Papers*), Coldplay, Death Cab for Cutie and Radiohead (*The King of Limbs*).



photo courtesy of Billboard.com

*Lupe Fiasco is releasing his third album LASERS featuring Trey Songz, John Legend and others.*

# Oscars have everyone at the edge of their seat

by Aditya Misra

There is a lot of buzz circulating as the 83rd Academy Awards loom over the entertainment world. It is going to air on February 27 and will be hosted by James Franco and Anne Hathaway. Meanwhile, the presenters are Halle Berry, Jeff Bridges, Sandra Bullock, Marisa Tomei and Oprah Winfrey. Mo'Nique will announce the Oscar nominees on January 25. As of now, no other information is available to the public, but a lot of film critics are making predictions for the Oscar winners.

Moviefone predicts that the Best Picture contenders will be *Black Swan*, *The Fighter*, *Inception*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *The King's Speech*, *127 Hours*, *The Social Network*,

photo courtesy of Opposingviews.com

*Many predict Natalie Portman will take home Best Actress for her role in Black Swan.*



*Toy Story 3*, *True Grit* and *Winter's Bone*.

Sophomore Abbey Harris said, "I think *Inception* will win the Oscar because it is a great concept made with great scenes. Nobody ever thought of such an idea before." A lot of critics believe that *Inception*, *The Social Network* and *The King's Speech* will ultimately compete for the Oscar win.

For Best Director, Moviefone predicts Darren Aronofsky for *Black Swan*, Danny Boyle for *127 Hours*, David Fincher for *The Social Network*, Tom Hooper for *The King's Speech* and Christopher Nolan for *Inception*.

Everybody except Christopher Nolan and Darren Aronofsky has been nominated before.

Best Actor may go to Javier Bardem (*Blutiful*), Robert Duvall (*Get Low*), Ryan Gosling (*Blue Valentine*), Colin Firth (*The King's Speech*), or James Franco (*127 Hours*). Sophomore Dan Leiby said, "I think the guy in *The King's Speech* [Colin Firth]



should get the award. It was a great movie with exceptional acting" The favorite among critics so far is Colin Firth. On the other hand, Ryan Gosling is at a disadvantage because his film's original NC-17 (No Children Under 17 Admitted) rating may alienate voters.

Best Actress predictions include Annette Bening (*The Kids Are All Right*), Sally Hawkins (*Made in Dagenham*), Jennifer Lawrence (*Winter's Bone*), Lesley Manville (*Another Year*) and Natalie Portman (*Black Swan*). Leiby said, "I think Sally Hawkins will get the best actress award." Portman and Bening will most likely compete for the Oscar trophy.

Best Supporting Actor predictions include Christian Bale (*The Fighter*), Matt Damon (*True Grit*), Andrew Garfield (*The Social Network*), Bill Murray (*Get Low*) and Geoffrey Rush (*The King's Speech*). Bale and Rush are the two prospects for the Oscar win.

Best Supporting Actress predictions include Helena Bonham Carter (*The King's Speech*),

Barbara Hersey (*Black Swan*), Melissa Leo (*The Fighter*), Miranda Richardson (*Made in Dagenham*) and Hailee Steinfeld (*True Grit*). It is largely unclear who has an advantage over the others.

Best Documentary may go to *Casino Jack*, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, *A Film Unfinished*, *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, or *Waiting for 'Superman'*. *Waiting for Superman* is the favored film as well as *A Film Unfinished*.

Best Animated Feature may go to *Despicable Me*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, or *Toy Story 3*. *Toy Story 3* is the most likely winner.

Hopefully, the Oscars will be awarded to the movies that break all of the current standards of a movie.



*Woody, the beloved, animated, plastic cowboy, starring again in the third installment of Toy Story, is in contention for an Oscar!*

photo courtesy of Shockya.com

## CAIN'S CRITIQUES

Ke\$ha returns with an 8-track LP album that offers exactly what her fans want - trashy, cheap beats that have simple, but honest lyrics. With hit tracks "We R Who We R" and "Blow", Ke\$ha's new album *Cannibal* is simple but addicting.

Grade: B+

What songs to check out: *Cannibal*, *Sleazy*



Justin Bieber has recently released a new album, *My World Acoustics* featuring all the same songs as his regular album... but the acoustic versions.

No, just no.

Grade: Does it even deserve a grade?

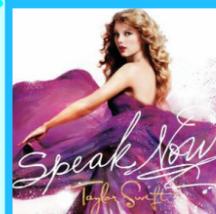
What songs to check out: Maybe listen to something else...



Taylor Swift has been rocketing to the top of the charts recently, and her new album, *Speak Now*, is very similar to her first. She continues to sing openly about past relationships, love, and fairy tales. While honest and poetic, many of her songs sound very similar to one another. Swift's fans will love this album, but anyone else may find that all the songs seem to bleed together.

Grade: B

What songs to check out: *Mine*, *Back to December*

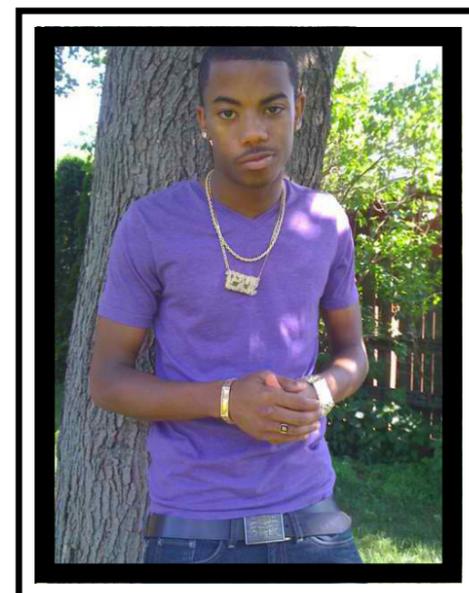


The Black Eyed Peas have kicked off their new album, *The Beginning* with their single *The Time*. Although many of the songs on the record have great beats, the Black Eyed Peas are releasing the same old type of song. Heavy, synthesized beats can only work for a few songs, and the unoriginality of the lyrics don't make this album nearly as good as their last.

Grade: C-

What songs to check out: *The Time*, *Don't Stop the Party*

~ Cain Azar



Keep a lookout for Chevy's new mixtape, *Lyrical Therapy pt.2: The Rebel* Dropping March 1st!