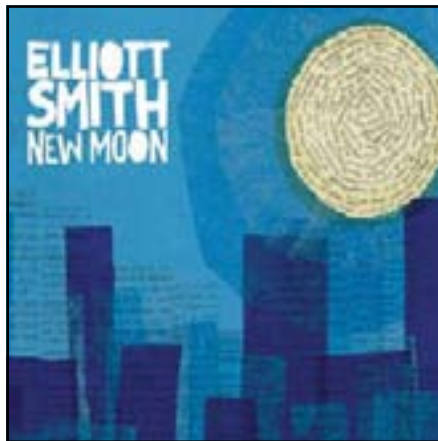


MUSIC REVIEW

Elliott Smith



New Moon - Kill Rock Stars

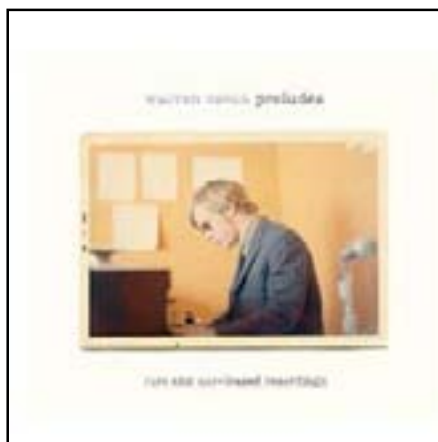
New Moon

MUSIC REVIEWED BY BOB JONES

With his second posthumous release New Moon (a double disc no less), Elliott Smith is now in the running to be the Tupac of Indie Rock. Smith is best known for "Miss Misery," his Academy-Award-

nominated song from the film "Good Will Hunting," or for his version of the Beatles tune "Because," which played as the credits rolled in American Beauty. But his body of work earned him a legion of fans and emulators. With New Moon, the E. Smith vaults have been mined for what sounds like home recordings, with the acoustic guitar and vocal-only tracks dominating the two dozen songs here. They were recorded from 1994 to 1997, a period that many fans would consider his best. Songs from New Moon are almost all previously unreleased tracks, and there is a wonderful cover of the Big Star song "Thirteen." Smith's music on New Moon makes me think of an insecure Simon and Garfunkel rolled together with a bit of the White Album-era Beatles. In short, the record sounds a lot like the records that Smith made when he was alive and on the Kill Rock Stars label. It is a great, long-lost Elliot Smith record, and if there are more like this one in the vaults then bring 'em on. ■

Warren Zevon



Preludes -New West Records

Preludes

MUSIC REVIEWED BY BOB JONES

I've always enjoyed unreleased demos and alternate takes of songs by artists that I like. It almost seems like you are watching an artist while he is sketching out a masterpiece or an early draft of a great book. Until fairly recently, most of

these recordings were only available as bootleg records, with very little in the way of information about the origin of the takes. Preludes, the new release from the late Warren Zevon, is a collection of demos with bands as well as solo demos that were found by his son. David Letterman has often said that Zevon is one of his favorite artists, and it is easy to see why—they are both cynical bastards who keep both eyes open. Linda Ronstadt had hits with "Poor Poor Pitiful Me" and "Hasten Down The Wind," but the version of "Poor Poor Pitiful Me" on this collection is the best ever laid down, and I'll jump up on the hood of Jerry Brown's hybrid and say as much. The original demo of his only real radio hit, "Werewolves of London," is real loose and for some reason the drummer's hi-hat is too high in the mix. But with these kinds of recordings you may get a few warts. Even though Zevon sang "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead," his songs keep on living. ■

Bob Jones is the founder of Silver Platter CDs EST1998 in Fort Myers. For more info or to suggest music, email recordreviews@comcast.net



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