

Of recent albums and recent awards: 2011's fall tours

By Brett Nagel

Verve Editor

Taking Back Sunday & The Maine - The Rave, October 14

After headlining the 2011 Bamboozle tour going on a North American tour this summer with Thursday, **Taking Back Sunday** (below) will



be going on the road again this fall with supporting act **The Maine**.

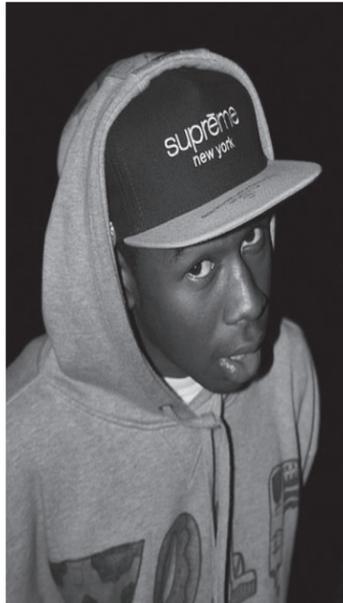
TBS, which has recently released their eponymous fifth album, has just finished production of their first music video off their newest album, for the single "Faith (When I Let You Down)". Bad Rabbits will be playing as the tour

opener throughout October and November.

Odd Future - The Metro, October 14

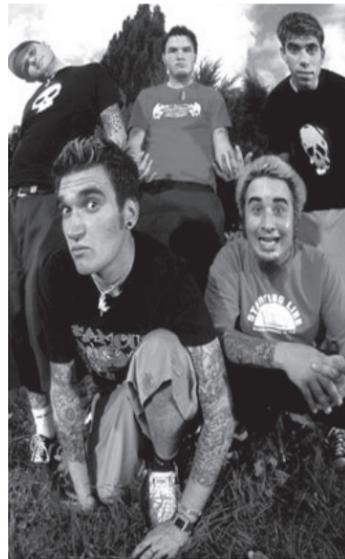
Recent VMA-award winner for Best New Artist Tyler the Creator (below) will be going on tour this fall to promote his group **Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All's** (commonly styled as Odd Future or OFWGKTA) newest album, *Wolf*.

Notable members of the group include singer Frank Ocean and rapper Earl Sweatshirt. Their first tour, entitled *Golf Wang Tour 2011*, will have 26 tour dates at venues across the U.S.



New Found Glory - House of Blues, November 4

After spending the summer performing at the 2011 Leeds Music Festival with My Chemical Romance, Enter Shikari, and The Strokes, **New Found Glory** (below) will be going on a U.S. tour this fall with openers Set Your Goals, The Won-



der Years, Man Overboard, and This Time Next Year. The band, which has remained relatively quiet since the release of their 2009 album *Not Without a Fight*, has now returned back to the studio to create their sixth studio album, *Radiosurgery*, which will be released to iTunes next month.

Another Jersey summer at the (Mediterranean) shore

By Ayana Jamal

Editor-in-Chief

As appalling as it sounds, I was beyond ecstatic when a friend of mine sent me the Jersey Shore Season Four trailer while I was in Rome this summer. I admit, it's my number one guilty pleasure in life and after having difficulty navigating Italian streets myself, I was eager to see how the ever-so-intelligent cast survived in Florence.

For all you non-Jersey fans, you heard right; MTV sent the eight roommates overseas to Florence (clearly forbidden from filming anywhere near Vatican City and Rome, as I don't think the pope would have liked to see the cast enter St. Peter's Basilica in their evening clubbing attire) for the filming of season four. Gym, Tan, Laundry (GTL) was replaced with Fist-pumping, Push-ups, Chapstick (FPC) in Italy.

Although I agree that they certainly did not deserve to be paid to go to Italy and the reality show kills brain cells by the minute, the revamped "guidos" and "guidettes" left a lasting

impression as of mid-season and here are some favorite highlights:

Vinny turned into the Dr. Phil of the house this season, intervening on the usual Sammi and Ronnie (who will not be mentioned since the duo never stray away from their love-hate relationship throughout all four seasons) conflicts.

Deena tried to be "lesbionic" more than once. Not sure if that needs to be elaborated upon.

Mike literally hit the wall after hearing Sammi and Ronnie fight for the twelve-hundredth time... with his head. Although a hospital visit may have been needed for the minor concussion, the neck brace certainly was not. Neither were sunglasses when he was inside all day. "The Situation" also continued his role of creating unnecessary situations in the house.

Snooki, aka "everybody's favorite meatball," continued her antics in Italy, believing that the currency in Italy was the peso and cussing at a priest in episode six after he asked her to cover up her body while near a church. Her boyfriend back at home also inflicts pointless issues on the household just like everything else.

J-Woww maintained her relationship with her boyfriend Roger back in the states and tried to mediate the daily drama in Florence.

DJ Pauly D is by far the most quotable character and drama-free member in the house this season. From his traditional one sentence reflections about being "fresh to death," his new "she's too young for you, bro" jokes (example: "If she still has coloring books, she's too young for you, bro!"), or his impressions, I think he deserves a spin off. I would watch it religiously along with his stalker back in Jersey.

Although their individual behaviors differ in their personalized ways, the cast all seem to share the same packing mindset. In total, they packed about 15 suitcases amongst the eight of them for a one day trip to the beach, a place where they would barely be wearing anything at all. Really unnecessary. Annoying and dramatic like as reality stars should be, these guidos will never get old throughout this season. Don't count on getting a glimpse of them actually visiting the Duomo, the David, or anything mildly significant in Florence. The chances are slim to none.

is myspace ready for a revival?



By Warren D'Souza

Guest Contributor

Online Now!

the caliber of the French Revolution.

I was recently asked if a MySpace revival was possible in today's Facebook Dynasty. I don't think I've ever been so confident in saying "no" since I was asked to start a regular Twitter feed. MySpace is dead. And not 2Pac dead, I mean dead as a doorknob, if doorknobs could be represented by a web domain. In July, Justin Timberlake tried to use his star power to revive MySpace with a hefty financial investment. This might have been a wonderful plan, if Justin Timberlake still had a fan-base.

As some of you may remember me saying in my Facebook rant article last year, Facebook and mob mentality go hand in hand on the Internet. We've grown so accustomed the Facebook norms (as agitating as they

may be) that the only way MySpace could be revived is if every popular teenager packed up and migrated to MySpace with their 1000 Facebook friends. That could only happen if MySpace offered amazing things Facebook didn't. Besides a dislike button, what potential features are there for a redefined social network that isn't a Facebook wannabe? I suppose MySpace could develop something unique as a social network, but that's exactly what engineers at Google are trying to do with Google+, their new version of Facebook. Google+ hasn't died yet, but the likelihood of a herd of Facebook cattle flocking there is close to right now. And with this third contender in the network game, MySpace's chances of revival just became slimmer.

So what shall we think about MySpace 2.0? I think it might as well give up and follow Justin Timberlake's musical talent into the grave. Let's just watch Facebook and Google+ duke it out in upcoming months. Like this status if you agree.

- Send Message
- Forward to Friend
- Add to Friends
- Add to Favorites
- Instant Message
- Block User
- Add to Group
- Rank User

"Facebook is the new MySpace."

This statement was the slogan of the social network revolution that occurred about five or six years ago, in a time where Friendster.com was the only choice of social network. While many of us were still transitioning into junior high, the

internet was making its own transition: MySpace was stuffed inside the high school generation's back drawers, to be replaced by Zuckerberg and his Facebook minions. And with the bandwagon mentality that drives all our teenage actions, the headlines were soon screaming about a hostile takeover on



Watch the Throne: two takes on hip-hop royalty

By Aaron Pellish

Reporter

In the wake 2010's album of the year, Kanye West's (featured right) *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, West's next project had been immediately hyped as a potential instant classic. And when it was announced that that project would be a collaboration with his mentor and all-time rap legend Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter (left), the expectations were even higher.

Shockingly, *Watch The Throne* underperformed in almost every aspect of the album. The album's lead single, "Otis" takes a sample of Otis Redding's beautiful, soulful ballad "Try A Little Tenderness" and chops it up into moans and grunts. The only part of this song that makes it "luxury rap" as West dubs it, is the small fortune that they wasted to sample three seconds of a soul classic.

Lyricaly, the album is laced with bragging and boasting, which becomes tired quickly and shows more conceit than wealth. Tracks like "Ni**as in Paris", "Gotta Have It", and "Lift Off" explore the shallow themes of unfathomable glamour and insane excess, which are hard to

relate to for 99-percent of listeners. And when the two mega-superstars attempt to delve into substantial issues, they fall hopelessly flat. While "New Day"'s hypothetical conversation with West's

to advance his game and deliver another legendary set of beats. Unfortunately for all, West falls back on cheap, syncopated melodies that went out-of-style around the time West changed the

By Tommy Dixon

Focus Editor

When it comes to rap moguls Jay-Z and Kanye West, most people find themselves either loving or loathing the dynamic duo, with very little grey area in

cuss how obscenely rich they are is found on hits such as "Otis" and "Ni**as in Paris", but the two also rap on deeper subjects ranging from black-on-black crime ("Murder to Excellence") to the hardships of youth ("Made in America"). Carter and West also have verses of reflection and (dare I say it) self-deprecation in the form of a letter to their future sons on "New Day", which is an appreciated break from their usual bravado.

Audibly speaking, the album is both progressive and elevating for the two artists. Carter and West brought in none but the best to contribute to their avant-garde sound. Three of their tracks feature the vocal brilliance of Odd Future's Frank Ocean ("No Church in the Wild", "Made in America") and Jay-Z's wife Beyoncé ("Lift Off").

However, the true force of this album comes from the bonus tracks of the Deluxe Edition. "H*A*M", "Primitime", "Illest Motherf**ker Alive", and "The Joy" are all songs that could have pushed the album to inconceivable heights. "Primitime" is perhaps a microcosm of what the album was expected to be; a heavy dose of swagger with a No I.D. beat and lyrical wizardry. But then again, the true genius of this album lies in the fact that Carter and West chose innovation over expectation.



Jay-Z and Kanye show off their signature pose and promote their new collaborative album.

and Carter's unborn children is a nice gimmick, and even inspires some humor from both rappers, it ultimately feels insincere and convoluted.

Musically, West's *Fantasy* set the bar in terms of progressive, edgy, and creative production. Many felt that West would continue

nature of hip-hop production in 2001 on Jay-Z's *The Blueprint*. "Otis", "Ni**as in Paris", and "That's My B**h" all feature sub-par compared to West's past work. Overall, *Watch The Throne* underwhelms drastically, leaving doubt as to whether the throne belongs to West and Jay-Z at all.

between; as a result, their collaborative album *Watch The Throne* has had mixed reviews. While *Watch The Throne* is neither West's nor Carter's best, it is still most definitely a success because it delivers from multiple dimensions. The expected upscale, materialistic rap in which Jay-Z and West mostly dis-

Haunted house preview

By Steffie Drucker

Ed-Op Editor

Statesville Haunted Prison - Crest Hill, IL

Statesville Prison, located in Crest Hill, Illinois, was formerly home to some of the most violent criminals. These convicts were subject to dark experiments and tortures in order to "break" them.

During an attempted jail-break, the prison's warden gave orders to fill the entire institution with poisonous gas. The warden and his men went into the prison to collect the dead and were never seen nor heard from again. The prisoners, far too evil to die of the gas, are opening the gates of the prison tonight, Sep. 30, at 7 p.m.

Regular admission is \$30 per ticket and parking is free. All victims age 15 and under must be accompanied by a legal guardian to enter the prison. For more information and complete directions of how to get to the prison, visit www.statesville.org.

Basement of the Dead - Aurora, IL

In the late 1920s in Au-

ra, Illinois, Walker Laundry opened up at 42 West New York Street and soon became Aurora's largest laundry company. Imus Kilya, a maintenance engineer, began working there in 1945 and brought his son Al to be his assistant starting in 1960.

The building's heat and steam for the company's presses was provided by an old coal fired boiler that was installed when the building was originally built. Imus and Al repeatedly alerted management that the boiler needed to be replaced but their boss refused to spend the money. In 1964 the boiler exploded, severely burning Al and Imus. A year later, workers at the laundry began to disappear. The basement, now known as the Basement of the Dead, is proof that Al and Imus still exist and have claimed the basement as their home.

General admission is \$15, a speed pass is \$25. The Basement will open for the first time this season on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

For complete directions and info, visit www.42fear.com.

Harry Potter

and the end of the series

By Rima Parikh

Guest Contributor

We all remember the night of July 14: the final Harry Potter midnight premiere. With people donned in the outfits of our favorite characters, the magic circulating in the theater was obvious. After months and months of waiting, it was finally here. As the opening credits began to roll, the whole theater was screaming in excitement. Then, silence. The movie had begun.

I don't know about you, but two hours later, I was bawling. The next morning, I found myself still buzzing with excitement. While animatedly discussing the movie with friends, the question arose: did the movie live up to the high expectations set by the book?

Of course, this is a hard feat to accomplish, as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is definitely the best piece of literature known to

man. But *Deathly Hallows Pt. 2* came pretty close. The film beautifully encompasses the new realm Harry and his friends have entered: one full of darkness and uncertainty, without the comforts of childhood. They have entirely left their coming-of-age phase, and plunged into the cold, frightening reality of the adult world. What made it even better was that the darkness of the movie was balanced with humor sprinkled throughout.

The final battle scene really stood out to me as it showed the best of many characters. It's amazing to see Neville become a brave, resourceful warrior who isn't afraid to use his sharp tongue against the Death Eaters! And come on, who wasn't jealous of Draco when he received that awkward-looking hug from Voldemort?

However, there were some aspects of the film that had room for improvement, like the death of Fred Weasley. In the book, the death of Fred was preceded by Percy's arrival. During the fight, he reconciled with his family, and unfortunately watched his brother die soon after. Having Fred die after he made amends with his brother made the scene more powerful as well as tragic: the movie's omission of this made it lose the deep emotions that came with Fred's death, making it seem unimportant.

Despite its issues, the film still did the book justice. The fantastic special effects, the beautifully composed score, and the best acting yet combined to create an epic movie. This conclusion of the tale of "The Boy Who Lived" will surely remain timeless, and be cherished by generations to come.