

# AUDIO DROME

DEADLY

DANGEROUS

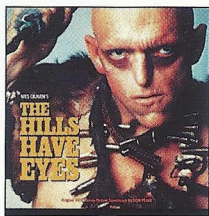
DECENT

DULL

DRIVEL

DOA  
DEAD ON  
ARRIVAL

REVIEWS BY TOMB DRAGONIR, MARK R. HASAN, AARON VON LUPTON,  
GEORGE PACHECO, SEAN PLUMMER AND GLENN TILSON



## THE HILLS HAVE EYES

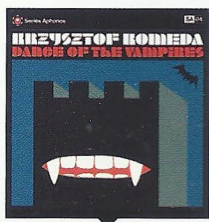
Don Peake

SOUNDTRACK

ONE WAY STATIC RECORDS

Originally an axeman session musician on classics such as Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" and The Jackson 5's "ABC," Don Peake transitioned into movie soundtracks with Wes Craven's early career cannibal shocker *The Hills Have Eyes*. Though the film isn't remembered for the music on its own, Peake's score is worth delving into, as it features a collection of experimental sounds and cues involving acoustic instruments, experimental electronics, and improvised materials including the actual bone necklaces used in the film. The result is an organic atmosphere of '70s action that is quickly taken over by eerie dread – not a classic piece of music by any stretch, but effective enough for the grindhouse. *The Hills Have Eyes* comes in a mega-glossy jacket with foil stamping on the cover and spine, giving it a nice retro look. Also included are exclusive liner notes from Peake and actors Michael Berryman and Janus Blythe (Ruby). A limited number were pressed on clear/amber splatter vinyl but those are sold out. It's still available on black, but you'd better buy it now or run to the hills. **AVL**

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## THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS

Krzysztof Komeda

SERIES APHONOS

Originally released in Poland in 1998, Series Aphonos' LP/CD combo release

SOUNDTRACK

of *The Fearless Vampire Killers* (a.k.a. *Dance of the Vampires*) soundtrack features the same content as both the Polish and British Harkit CDs, which means Krzysztof Komeda's deliciously weird score still runs a meagre half hour and lacks a proper conclusion. That said, this is a natural companion score to Komeda's masterwork, *Rosemary's Baby*, and features another haunting main theme, plus arrangements in which the composer often fuses elements from classical, contemporary chamber and modern jazz. The human voice is used to eerie effect in both a solo and a recurring wavering chorus, and the shifts in mood – grim, absurdly flighty or outright menacing – suit the quixotic tone of Roman Polanski's polarizing satire of vampire lore. A brilliant pianist, Komeda integrated facets of jazz in his film work plus experimentalism, yet each score – for comedy, drama or horror – was tailor-made with brilliant care. *Fearless* deserves a definitive release. **MRH**

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## SCREAM IN THE DARK

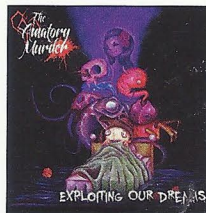
Dante Tomaselli

SOUNDTRACK

ELITE ENTERTAINMENT / MVD AUDIO

Crafted like an old-time spooky LP (*Nightmare* and *Son of Shock!* certainly come to mind), this concept album by indie filmmaker Dante Tomaselli features an hour's worth of themed tracks that are largely comprised of drifting sound effects, drones, shrieks, twisting leather, grievous knife usage and the occasional morsel of music. The writer/director/composer often creates temp soundtracks prior to filming, and this CD may well be an unofficial compendium of material from his last two films. It's exceptionally mastered, with mostly digital sounds and assorted samples heavily processed and layered with precision timing to create a surreal soundscape. The downside is there's very little music – samples, fragments

and snippets maybe, if not a few recurring bass chords – which gives the CD's final third a meandering quality. But it's a fun evocation of grim scenarios, if not a cavernous haunted house where you have to listen and feel around to reach daylight. **MRH**



## THE AMATORY MURDER

Exploiting Our Dreams EP

GOTH

(INDEPENDENT)

They are self-described goths, but the only thing scary about The Amatory Murder is their frightfully pedestrian sound. The Brooklyn quintet's five-track *Exploiting Our Dreams* EP decorates depressingly banal pop melodies and angst-ridden lyrics with delicate synth lines and driving guitars, coming across like a high school tribute band whose Vampire Freaks profile lists their influences as Dommin and The Birthday Massacre – superior bands with better musicianship and more compelling lyrics. Singer Christian Peppas gives his vocal all on tracks such as "A Haunting" and "Need" but mistakenly chooses

bravado over subtlety on a superfluous cover of The Police classic "King of Pain." Only "Perverted Views" comes off as half-interesting, with experimental guitar tones gussying up an electro-rock sound that was dated when Evanescence was doing it a decade ago. While their passion is evident, The Amatory Murder does not exactly kill it. **SP**



## FOR THE WOLF

Turn on the Dark

ROCK

HORRORHOUND RECORDS

Freshly inked to *HorrorHound* magazine's label, For the Wolf is female-fronted hard stoner rock out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. With a punk edge and lust for the macabre, lead howler Kristy Emory and husband Coby (guitar) sound sort of like Deftones with Dancehall Crashers vocals. Those chops range from slow, dark 'n' doomy ("Heaven Is a Ghost Town"), to a more rigorous punk-metal hybrid on "The Great White Fire," and snarly, Rancid-esque power punk on "Save the City." On the softer side, "Electric Babysit-

## KREEPS

Spirit Clinic

ROCK

EXI-TONE RECORDS

You might know Kreeps as that band from the soundtrack to video game *Red Dead Redemption*. We know them as the 2010 winners of *RM's* Album of the Year (*Dead Sounds*). Either way, they finally return with thirteen fresh cuts recorded in the backwoods town where David Lynch filmed *Twin Peaks*. A genre-hopping album of "spiritual possession, romantic cruelty, and exile," *Spirit Clinic's* psychotic surf sound crawls with cosmic keys, spacy bass and low-toned glimmering guitars. The sound conjures a bleak, witchy organ grinder ("Spiders in My Mailbox"), a little teenage sex 'n' violins ("Prom Dress"), a wandering post-punk instrumental ("Voodoo Black Exorcist") and "Geekula," the catchiest song about the dangers behind a door since The Ramones left home. Seemingly from some other dark, introspective interstellar astral plane, this music is what a horror lover listens to while slowly floating away into a dusty black hole. It's time to check in: the *Spirit Clinic* is expecting you... **TD**

