

REVIEWS

MUSIC



WILL YOUNG

Let It Go / RCA

Out now

Yes indeed, let it go! Throw it away! Flush it down the toilet where it belongs! This aptly named fourth album from Will Young is absolutely rubbish. Rubbish! I can't stress this enough. Don't even waste your time reading about how bad this album is. Be gone. Go and listen to something good.

To be fair to Will, he does have a fantastic voice, it's just a shame that it's been wasted by being paired with cheesy instrumentals. Opening track "Changes" is quite promising – good even – until we reach the chorus: a fanfare of cheese and a taster of what's to come. The tracks pass by in a haze of naff lyrics and too many instruments. Only the title track, "Let it Go", has escaped the taint of poor production.

This album needs guitars. More guitars! I can't imagine that any one of these tracks is going to get fans screaming at the top of their lungs and yelping with excitement on Will's upcoming tour. If I were him, I'd scrap the lot and start again.

Alison Stacey



GLASVEGAS

Glasvegas / Columbia Records

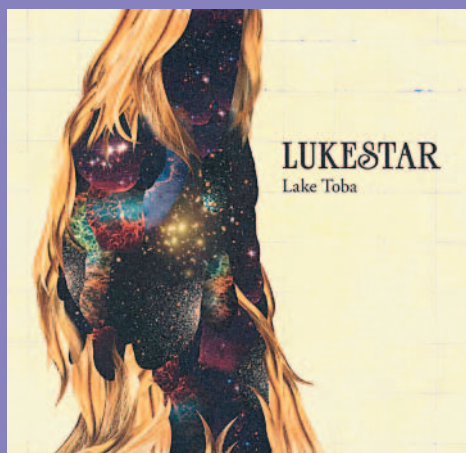
Out now

This Scottish band's eponymous first album features a track on bullying and the haunting spoken-word track "Stabbed"; they could have been lifted straight off the front pages of this year's newspapers. You get the feeling these guys have really experienced the mean streets of Glasgow (they even have the accents, which are endearing rather than indecipherable).

The second single "Daddy's Gone" was hailed in some quarters, but there are better tracks; "Geraldine", for one, is very clever. Listen out for the nursery rhymes too; most songs contain one or two lines from childhood favourites.

It will be interesting to see how Glasvegas perform long term following all the hype in the music press. As far as their debut is concerned, most of the tracks are infectious despite their melancholy theme, inspiring bouts of air drumming and air guitar from time to time. Don't expect this album to relieve any imminent winter blues, but you will be humming the likes of "Go Square Go" long after your first listen.

Anne Giacomantonio



LUKESTAR

Lake Toba / Phone Me Records

Out now

When I heard this album I really thought the lead singer of the Norwegian trio was a woman. Even though I now know better, I still can't quite believe it. Not only that, he's a short, slightly podgy man with a slimy little moustache. Crazy.

But don't let my gender-based confusion put you off. *Lake Toba* is a very listenable indie album that doesn't outstay its welcome, clocking in at 35 minutes. You end up with a winning formula: a load of three-minute songs with a pleasing mix of aggressive drums, melodious guitars and feminine-sounding vocals. You can't go wrong.

Stand-out tracks include "Clockworks of Tomorrow", which is one of the rockier numbers, and "The Shade you Hide", which initially sounds like The Hives but in a good way. As a sucker for an instrumental interlude, "Intermission to Io" also appeals.

Nope, sorry, I can't do it: *surely* that's a woman singing, isn't it? Come on boys, where is she, you can't fool me with that 'tache...

Dan Poole