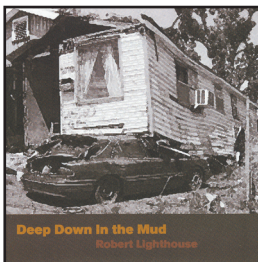


The Kin
Rise and Fall
www.thekin.com



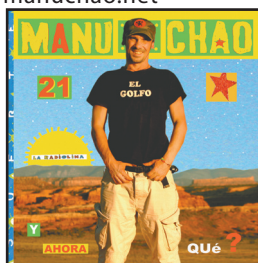
Australian-born brothers Thorry and Isaac Koren, now residents of New York City, craft epic pop songs that have evoked comparisons to bands as varying as Coldplay, the Cure, and early U2. Known collectively as **the Kin**, the Koren brothers have garnered quite a bit of attention. Billboard has called their live show a "humbling experience," and Time Out NY has similarly lauded their efforts. "**Rise and Fall**" is an effortlessly delivered pop album, as dreamlike and present as Frou Frou's remarkable "Details." The Kin have found a happy medium in the pop landscape, and an elegant one at that. — LGLP

Robert Lighthouse
Deep Down in the Mud
www.robertlighthouse.com



Very happy to see **Robert Lighthouse** release his second full-length album, "**Down in the Mud.**" Very well-done blues from a local. Covers, including the required Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, but Lighthouse also shows his chops by tackling the likes of George Clinton ("Red Hot Mama") and Jimi Hendrix ("Spanish Castle Magic"), both highlights. And just how local is this disc? Solo acoustic tracks laid down at **Chief Ikes Mambo Room**, full band compositions at **Zoo Bar**, both in DC. Check Lighthouse out live — multiple local shows next month. Visit his Web site for details. — RF

Manu Chao
La Radiolina
manuchao.net



Manu Chao has always let his displeasure of U.S. foreign policy known, especially during his June DC-area show at Merriweather in front of 16,000. In "Tristeza Maleza" he speaks of infinite sadness due to the privacy-invading "Sr. Bush" and in "Rainin in Paradize" he thinks of Baghdad as non-democratic "because it's a U.S. country." These are songs of anti-globalization, peace and war, freedom and love, in English, Spanish, French and now Italian, using his trademark wondrous mix of global rhythms, with a new emphasis on rock. "Rainin" calls for calm and intelligence in a chaotic world with a fist-pumping, peppy upbeat catchy tune. In "Me llaman Calle" he hopes for love for streetwalkers in a beautifully melodic flamenco strum rhythm. "El Hoyo" is just plain fun, filled with sirens, screams, pulsating snare drums, rolling R's, chants of "hey, hey, hey," and "hoyoyo... oyoyo." CD release date is **Sept. 4.** — AF

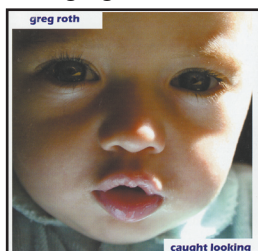
Monarch
If Children
www.monarchmakesmusic.com



Baltimore's **Monarch** play in the muddy waters of the shoe-gaze genre with no plans of being drowned in the textured sounds of their established contemporaries. The duo embrace a far more melodic and straight forward approach than the style-over-substance shoe gazers — walls of distortion and meandering guitar lines are not enough on "**If Children.**" The compositions are considered and allowed to progress and ultimately evolve. Comparable to their Baltimore brethren the Trushes, there is also a touch of the contemplative chaos of early Broken Social Scene

or the artsy leanings of Grizzly Bear present here. Overall, a stunning release from a band I'll be keeping my eye on. — LGLP

Greg Roth
Caught Looking
www.gregroth.com



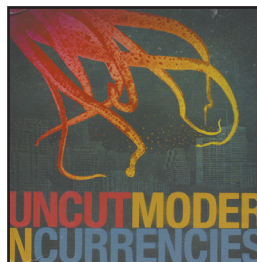
Arlington's **Greg Roth** slips through a number of deliveries on his debut solo album "**Caught Looking.**" Roth has a solid formula for his compositions and doesn't seem to deviate from it except on a few tracks, "League Bowlers" amongst them. Everything works, often quite well. 'Caught Looking' is a competent debut. Often plays local, check out his site for details. — LGLP

Two Loons for Tea
Nine Lucid Dreams
www.twoloons.com



The Two Loons are Jonathan Kochmer and Sarah Scott, and they have a collective group of friends who help them out in the studio. As interesting as this may sound, vocalist Scott sounds kind of like a mournful early No Doubt Gwen Stefani and the backing track is kind of boring. At some points the music heads in a trippy direction and could make a good soundtrack for cooking dinner in your bare feet. — RA

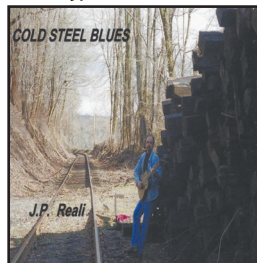
Uncut
Modern Currencies
www.thenewviolence.com



Vocalists Ian Worang and Derek Tokar drip with the same deep, sultry sexiness as Marilyn Manson. They project their lyrics with a conversational ennui over typically modern rock. They've opened for Bob Mould, too, which gives **Uncut** a ton of street cred. The swirling, edgy guitar lines have a tendency to perk up into the high ranges, which injects a bit of sunshine into the seemingly dark metal of the sound. — RA

-----ALSO AVAILABLE-----

J.P. Reali
Cold Steel Blues
www.jpreali.com



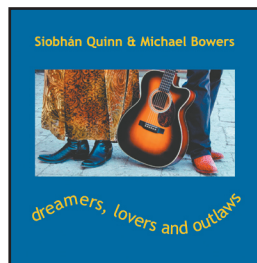
Local picks up his steel guitar, takes stab at blues. Not bad. Lots of covers, some originals, Catch him locally, check his Web site for dates.

Simplicity
Ego Straight
simplicitymusic.com



Third studio release from Detroit-based rock band Simplicity.

Siobhan Quinn & Michael Bowers
Dreamers, Lovers and Outlaws
www.dreamersloversandoutlaws.com



Local folk-like duo with a new disc out. Performing at the **Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sept. 16.**

Have a CD you think worthy of review? Mail submissions to:
Robert Fulton, On Tap Magazine
4238 Wilson Blvd. Suite 3078, Arlington, VA 22203