

My Morning Jacket reveal 'Evil Urges'

By JAMES SPEED
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"Whoop! I made a nasty decision to love whoever I want just a whenever I can," croons Jim James on My Morning Jacket's title track to their latest album "Evil Urges."

Their fifth studio album was released in June 2008 and has received rave reviews from Rolling Stone, Spin and Entertainment Weekly.

"Evil Urges" boasts a variety of sounds and music stylings not often found on a single record.

Whitney Pastorek of Entertainment Weekly described as "R&B grooves, Prince-worthy vocal seduction, robotic verses cribbed from an old house-music mix."

Because of its blend of so many styles of music, it is an album that can be listened to over and over again.

"Wastin time home alone dottin your i's, peanut butter pudding surprise," wails James in "Highly Suspicious," a stand out track on the record. I don't know what a peanut butter pudding surprise is, but I want one.

There is a note on this song that James hits that is so high and that



Photo courtesy of mymorningjacket.com

he holds for so long you would think he didn't have testicles. Add to that a funky guitar lick jamming against a low and raunchy bass riff, and it is truly one of those euphoric musical moments where you just want to close your eyes and get sucked

into your speakers.

I listened to this album several times and decided that it was purely a studio album and there was no way they could recreate these amazing sounds live. Then they did a concert at Festival Pier in Philly and it was broadcast on

XPN radio.

They played a two hour set before heading off stage. It sounded amazing. I was astonished, but they did not play "Highly Suspicious" or "Touch Me I'm going to scream," which were in my opinion the hardest songs to

recreate live.

They came back onstage for what I thought was an encore. They played for another hour and they did perform "Highly Suspicious," "Touch Me I'm going to scream" and about seven other songs. James hit every note and the music sounded just as rich and wonderful as it does on the record.

Their guitarist, Carl Broemel, is known to break out a saxophone or a pedal-steel guitar for certain tracks. The pedal-steel is a guitar that you play horizontally and has pedals and knee levers used to change the pitch of certain strings as you are playing the instrument. It's kind of like a Whammy bar on a standard guitar except you can pick and choose single strings without affecting others. It is normally used in country music.

Another outstanding track on the album is "I'm Amazed," which is their current single. Well, I am amazed at this record and I'm amazed by Jim James vocals. I am amazed by Carl Broemel on guitar and I am amazed by bass man Two Tone Tommy. I am amazed by keyboarding Bo Koster and drummer Patrick Hallahan.

Five stars! Buy the album, steal the album, just get the album and crank it up!

Sci-Fi show 'Fringe' shows viewers pros and cons of paranormal

By ALLISON MILLS
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A brilliant and tough female detective works with a mad scientist and his estranged, sarcastic son to solve mysterious terrorist cases for the Department of Homeland Security in Fox's new series, "Fringe."

The new science-fiction drama, created by the same team who developed "Star Trek," "Mission: Impossible III" and "Alias," showcases the paranormal in its unusual investigations.

FBI Special Agent Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv), the heroine of "Fringe," is television's female Jack Bauer. Dunham is strong, determined, intelligent and dedicated. The mad scientist Dunham breaks from his mental institution to assist her is Dr. Walter Bishop (John Noble), who provides a source of humor to the show. To help with Dr. Bishop, Dunham also requires

the assistance of Bishop's son, Peter (Joshua Jackson).

The Bishop men impress with their intelligence, but Dr. Bishop is slightly unstable after being institutionalized for 17 years. Peter Bishop becomes both his father's assistant and translator and Dunham's new partner.

The chemistry between actors Torv and Jackson provides for a good partnership and also cause speculation that their characters may have a budding romance. Jackson and Noble also work

well together as an untraditional father/son team where the father is demented and the son is bitter and cynical.

In the pilot episode, the focus of the show is on a plane that lands in Boston with no signs of life coming from inside the plane. Upon further investigation, a toxin was released that not only killed all the passengers but also turned their skin transparent. When Dunham's partner and lover becomes afflicted with the translucent skin condition, she takes drastic measures recommended by Dr. Bishop to save him.

"Excellent! Let's make some LSD," Dr. Bishop said after Dunham approved his plan to immerse her in an isolation tank while high on LSD in an attempt to mentally connect with her partner, who happens to be in a coma.

Future cases on "Fringe" will feature more scientific and paranormal phenomena like

genetic mutation, teleportation, invisibility, re-animation, mind control and astral projection.

Adding to the drama and suspense of the show is Nina Sharp, CEO of Massive Dynamic, a corporation founded by Dr. Bishop's lab partner after Bishop was instituted. Sharp is a powerful, manipulative woman portrayed brilliantly by Blair Brown. Sharp introduces Agent Dunham to "The Pattern," which is the inexplicable and bizarre chain of events that the show is focused on. It is obvious Sharp and Massive Dynamic play an important role, and likely a malevolent role, in "The Pattern" and the investigation of it, but the first episodes are vague about her involvement.

While Jackson, Noble and Brown comprise a strong cast, Torv's representation of Dunham is at times disappointing and lackluster. Action scenes where Dunham's determination shines through are definitely Torv's strong suit, but her face sometimes seems expressionless in dramatic

moments. Regardless, Torv has good chemistry with the rest of the cast in her inspiring role as Agent Olivia Dunham.

Viewers who enjoy stretching their thoughts beyond the realm of the realistic will enjoy this show. While certainly not factual, "Fringe" explores concepts foreign to most but fascinating to many, like altered states of consciousness, paranormal events and awe-inspiring scientific developments and technologies.

Symbolically, "Fringe" both emphasizes the dangers of some new technologies, especially if they wind up in the wrong hands, and also demonstrates how beneficial the same developments could be to agencies, such as the FBI, whose goal is to protect the public. "Fringe" will captivate viewers and keep them wondering what could possibly come next, but also make them consider the possibility that developments in science may not always be progressive or beneficial.

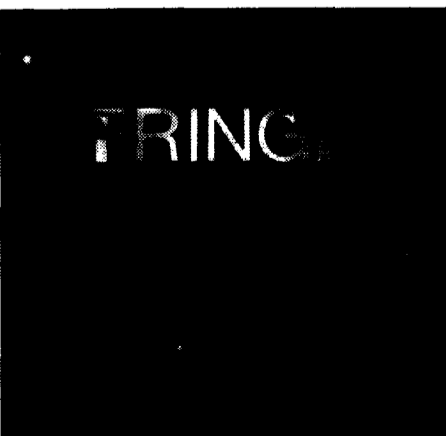


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