

Entertainment

A salute to rock classics

Springsteen's "Born to Run" exemplifies the restlessness of youth

Editor's note: For the next five weeks, critic Gary Nolan will be re-examining some of the music world's greatest contributions.

by Gary Nolan
Collegian Staff Writer

Rather than review a new release for the next five weeks, I will discuss five classic albums no music fan should be without. These albums, outstanding in nature, have been hand-picked from several hundred releases. Superior music, lyrics, and production, make these the best the industry has ever created.

One album that should not be overlooked remains the brilliant *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen. This concept album combines all the tracks to tell a long, emotional story about life's hardships and the adventure of escaping. The superior production and music lend a grand backdrop to Springsteen's imagery, as the listener gets to know the characters in his world.

The release kicks off with the colorful and melodic "Thunder Road". This track combines some of Springsteen's best imagery to craft an emotional plea of escaping and abandoned innocence to an unsuspecting, naive recipient. The clever lyrics tell a tale of leaving security armed only with hope and sense of

adventure.

Springsteen need only utter the line "I'm no hero that's understood/All the redemption I can offer girl is beneath this dirty hood" and the listener learns that there is no turning back. Springsteen is playing the game for keeps and his escape is a decision he does not take lightly.

As "Thunder Road" fades out, a lively beat of "Tenth Avenue Freeze Out" is ushered in. This track deals with the ability to



cope and live in bad surroundings. Echoing the first track, one gets some background on why Springsteen wants to hit that "Thunder Road".

This leads into "Backstreets", a song about the emotion of growing up. This growing up is done in the bad environment depicted in the previous song. This track explores the option of not running away and hiding to escape the environment. He uses the metaphor of coming of age,

crime, and escaping the police to complete the message.

This then segues into the love track "She's the One," where Springsteen tells the tale of falling in love amidst inner turmoil caused by growing up in this environment. He shows that even in a bad situation some good and security can be found.

The album then explodes into the anthem and title track "Born to Run". This rockin' piece echoes the first track with tales of escaping and leaving the past in a cloud of dust. It serves the invitation to run into the darkness with only each other for comfort and fear as our foil. Springsteen invites with adventure but shows sensitivity in the fear of the unknown. The band fuels the urge with a driving, running beat that entices and invites the listener to share in Springsteen's venture.

"Night" tells of the escape and life as a prisoner of your dreams, the dream lying in the escape. As life is left behind to enter the night, tales and images of being set free accent the track.

"Meeting Across the River"

Entertainment Briefs

School bans MTV

Students at David Lipscomb University in Tennessee can no longer have their MTV. School officials pulled the network's plug on sets in Dorm lounges and screens in the student center. Actions supposedly stem from complaints that some students were watching the channel too much and at a volume which was much too high.

Quake coverage angers soap watchers

NBC's expanded *Today* show coverage of last Tuesday's earthquake left soap opera fans nationwide frustrated, angry and just "downright vulgar." Television studios were swamped with calls from irate viewers, including KYW-TV in Philadelphia received over 500 calls between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

Letterman may win viewer's wife

The California earthquake may have postponed the world series, but David Letterman's bet with Maurice Shank is still on. Shank, a Kansas native, will win a case of scotch and an electric shoeshine kit if the Oakland Athletics win the series. If Letterman wins the bet, his prize will be Shank's wife Darlene.

takes the players in the story on a little detour as the escape leads to a meeting with a rather shady character. The adventurers seem to have themselves on the line and may yield rewards or be left to fate's unfortunate hand.

The album then climaxes in the tale's final chapter, "Jungleland". Springsteen introduces several new characters to the game and his imagery sculpts them into the listener's mind. The jungleland life on the streets and the struggle, however futile, of escaping the dirty, crime-filled standards to make a honest stand is expressed through

Springsteen's vocals. One realizes that the escape is not as easy as once thought as the dream collapses and the darkness seals his fate.

Through the complex eyes and ears of Springsteen the listener is thrust into his world to fight his battle with him. This album remains an incredible masterpiece as characters fight themselves and their surroundings. The music accents this struggle and lends to one of the best albums ever created.

Once there was a man whose prison was a chair
The man had a monkey, they made the strangest pair
The monkey ruled the man, it climbed inside his head
And now, as fate would have it, one of them is dead.

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