

2008 vinyl sales double

By **Whitney Bysterveldt**
Panther Post

The release of Nielson Co. music sales numbers for 2008 marked a trend in the return of media that mainly your parents got the pleasure of indulging in: vinyl. Fortunately for myself, my parents were not wise to the wonders of technology back in the late 80s and early 90s. Instead of upgrading to the constant rewinding and fast-forwarding marvel of modernity cassette players brought to the masses, they stuck to the old MGA turntables.

Although their collection of records was pretty pitiful in comparison to the reserves some nostalgic music buffs boast today it still held some gems. I still recall dancing around in the living room to the sounds of Eric Clapton, Tom Petty, Fleetwood Mac, Bruce Springsteen and for some strange reason Meatloaf (who knew my mom was into Meatloaf?). Those records were never put away into the corner of a basement or attic like many others when the creative destruction process of technology reared its ugly head. Instead I got the pleasure of inheriting that collection and adding to it over the years. I'm one of the many contributing to the twofold increase in vinyl sales for Canada last year and encouraging you to be part of that swelling figure.

There's something about the raw and authentic sound from vinyl that seems to have been lost in the polish and over-enhanced digitalization of modern music. The experience of using a record player itself adds to it. Some may consider it to be a tedious task, constantly flipping from A side to B side or assiduously positioning the needle to hear a specific track. I don't see it that way and Nudie, lead singer of Nudie and the Turks and Back Alley Music part timer, doesn't either.

"The process of pulling it out flipping it admiring the artwork, liner notes, looking at it, it's more aesthetically

pleasing," he boasts.

As vinyl sales seem to skyrocket, Nudie could be right.

The record player epitomizes what the recording of music is all about: listening to it. People who grew up with record players really listened to the music. They didn't constantly skip songs, listen to scattered playlists on random or download a few singles from radio rotation. It was all about the album, what songs made it to the A side and which ones were delegated to B. The sequence of songs on the album had much more relevance and were telling of the artist's own taste about their own art (or in some cases their record label). The process of using a record player forces the user to actively listen and pay attention to the record rather than subject the music to being mere background noise. So for those of you who are true music lovers go to your local music retailers or the flea market, scour your parents' basement and attic. You don't have to completely disregard the likes of iTunes and iPods but sometimes it's best to just dance around in your living room to the scratchy sounds of needle on vinyl.

lists...

Music to hear

Deerhunter- This Atlanta quintet boasts a compelling live show, combining a medley of genres from psychedelic art rock to post-punk. Their third album *Microcastle* boasts a slew of accolades from music media dignitaries Blender, Pitchfork and Rolling Stone.

Brent Randall and his Magnificent

Pinecones- The chamber pop troupe make a return to the Halifax music scene with *We Were Strangers In Paddington Green*. Charming audiences with their eccentric dress and whimsical melodies be sure to keep your eyes open for island tour dates.

Franz Ferdinand- One of Scotland's biggest musical exports, Franz Ferdinand delivers the first big album releases of 2009. Their third studio album, *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* makes this year in music look promising with their first single *Ulysses*.

Movies to see

Peter and Vandy- Debuting at this year's

Wintersleep lights up The Wave



Wintersleep lead singer Paul Murphy sings and plays guitar at a big show at The Wave on January 21. Bysterveldt photo

Sundance festival, *Peter and Vandy* is a love story filmed like a jigsaw puzzle by making heavy use of flashbacks to illustrate the beginning and ending of a relationship.

Featuring Jason Ritter and Jess Weixler it's an adaptation of the original play, which was written and directed by Jay DiPietro.

Cadillac Records- For all those who love classic rhythm and blues this is the movie to see. The film tells the story of the artists who are a part of a well-known Chicago record label, Chess Records. With an all-star cast including Adrien Brody, Beyonce Knowles, Mos Def and Jeffrey Wright you get to relive the 1950s.

The World's Best Commercials 2008- An annual classic at City Cinema, the title says it all. For those of you with a short attention span and are in need of a good laugh look no further.

It brings together the best of the best TV commercials from around the world, start-

ing Feb. 11.

Books to read

I Love Geeks- Written by Carrie Tucker, an admitted lover of the more intelligent and less socially-acute kind, this is a handbook for girls that share her pain. Even if this book doesn't help you dissect the brain of your dorky boyfriend, at least it will good you a good laugh and includes some veracious illustrations.

Lost Paradise- A novel by an esteemed Dutch writer, Cees Nooteboom, *Lost Paradise* follows the lives of travellers and how their lives are connected. A profound piece of literature that touches on complex themes and ruminates over life's processes.

Outliers- Ever wonder how some people in life become so ridiculously successful? Malcolm Gladwell has the answer, and he's letting us know. He divulges everything, from why certain cultures are better at math, to how Bill Gates rose to such heights of affluence.