

Kickmag's 2012 Picks



THEESatisfaction - *awe Naturale*

High-tech Nubian poetry for the future of soul.



Nona Hendryx - *Mutatis Mutandis*

Hendryx's latest funk party of Americana political truth.



The Coup - *Sorry To Bother You*

The Coup reinvents itself with irascible rock/rap to command your attention.



Esperanza Spalding - *Radio Music Society*

Spalding's well-bred jazz/R&B mash.



Take 6 - *One*

Take 6's timeworn vocal harmonies elevate parts of the gospel canon with sublime arrangements.



Santigold - *Master Of My Make Believe*

Santigold adds more ruggedness to her errant '80's influenced pop.



Childish Gambino - *Royalty*

Gambino's third mixtape is intelligent

fun and progress with his muse.



Locksmith-*Labyrinth*

Heady rhymes from Bay Area battle king.



Nas-*Life Is Good*

A return to Nas's classic street cinema



Incognito- *Surreal*

The UK's favorite jazz/funk masters deliver another solid excursion.



Kendrick Lamar-*Good Kid M.A.A.D City*

The next wave of West Coast rap from the region's number one commercial upstart.



Oddisee-*People Hear What They See*

Unpasteurized hip-hop from D.C.'s favorite underground emcee.



Meshell Ndegeocello-*Pour une ame souveraine*

A divine tribute to Nina Simone from R&B's most prominent forerunner.



Robert Glasper-*Black Radio*

Black pop surveyed with smoothness and a superb cover of "Smells Like

Teen Spirit.”



Flying Lotus-*Until The Quiet Comes*

Otherworldly electronica, lo-fi jazz and re-tooled New Wave.



Dwele-*Greater Than One*

Dwele’s self-contained R&B gets posher.



Miguel-*Kaleidoscope Dream*

A honest trip from a self-avowed R&B maverick.



Frank Ocean-*Channel Orange*

A brave debut from one of R&B’s new voices.



Hawthorne Headhunters-*Myriad Of Now*

Left-field soul from Coultrain and Black Spade.



Bad Brains-*Into The Future*

Standard speed reggae elixir from the punk hardcore kings.

Throwback: Nona Hendryx - Transformation



[youtube]6iHFlr4jqmw[/youtube]

Nona Hendryx is a Trenton, New Jersey native who was a member of Labelle through all their incarnations. The group consisted of Sarah Dash, Patti Labelle, Hendryx and for a time Cindy Birdsong. They became famous for their covers of [“I Sold My Heart To The Junkman”](#) and [“Lady Marmalade.”](#) The group broke-up in 1976 and Hendryx released her first self-titled solo album in 1977. Her back-up work for The Talking Heads lead to an association with Bill Laswell’s experimental funk group Material and they had a club hit with [“Busting’ Out”](#) in 1981. Material produced her second solo album, *Nona* and this is the album that has “Transformation,” [“B-Boys,”](#) [“Keep It Confidential”](#) and the song [“Design For Living”](#) that had guest appearances from Valerie Simpson, Tina Weymouth, Laurie Anderson, Nancy Wilson from Heart and Patti Labelle. She wrote songs for a couple of soundtracks in the '80's including [“Transparent”](#) for “Coming To America,” and [“I Sweat \(Going Through The Motions\)”](#) for “Moving Violations.” *The Art of Defense* was released in 1984 and she received a Grammy nomination for [“Rock This House”](#) co-written with Keith Richards from her 1985 album *The Heat*. MTV yanked the video for [“I Need Love”](#) from their playlist because of the presence of drag queens. [“Why Should I Cry”](#) from her 1987 *Female Trouble* album became her biggest R&B hit. The album also had input from Peter Gabriel and Prince who wrote [“Baby Go-Go.”](#) Peter Baumann of Tangerine Dream produced the following *Skin Diver* album from 1989 which was composed of ambient New Age sounds. Hendryx returned in '92 with an album of R&B covers with Billy Vera called *You Have To Cry Sometime*. In the 2000's she made a guest appearance on “The L Word” where her song

[“Transformation”](#) was performed by the alternative rock group BETTY. Labelle reunited in 2007 to release the *Back To Now* album. Hendryx’s work with Labelle and her solo work in various genres has made her one of the most versatile artists. And her work in the ’80’s earned her the title of being an unsung funk pioneer. On July 31, 2012 Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Records released Hendryx’s heavily political [Mutatis Mutandis](#).

The Festival Of The New Black Imagination

[vimeo]28039625[/vimeo]

The Festival Of The New Black Imagination is a gathering taking place in New York City on October 15th to discuss the Black creative mind. Festival founder Rob Fields, has put together a line-up of some of the most important Black creatives of the 20th and 21st century including Greg Tate, Nona Hendryx, Wangechi Mutu, Vernon Reid, Tamar- Kali and many others. Because NBIF is not a mainstream co-opted get-together of the usual safe suspects the big sponsors are not involved. You can click on Fields’ video and hear about the festival directly from him and make a donation if you like. If you can’t contribute money and you’re in the city give your support by attending.

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Under Your Skin Interview With Nona Hendryx

[youtube]m83Cy6ADqPg&[/youtube]

Under Your Skin interviewed Nona Hendryx and she talks about her song “The Ballad Of Rush Limbaugh” lol.