



Album Review

by: Sack Berth

Ritt Momney delivers a superb album on his psyche featuring heavy, groovy synths with soft and personal lyrics on his latest album, *Sunny Boy*.

Ritt Momney, a.k.a Jack Rutter, was born in Dallas, Texas, and is currently 21 years old. For most of his life, he grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was in a band called Rutter. He released his first album, *Her and All of My Friends*, in 2019, but came into huge fame after his cover of "Put Your Records On". Released in 2020, this cover skyrocketed to fame off TikTok, landing him a record deal with Disruptor Records and Columbia Records. Momney musical inspiration spans many genres, such as indie-pop, electronic, and alternative.

Sunny Boy demonstrates vast improvement from his first record, especially in terms of production. The album is extremely clean and never feels clunky or dragged down by the number of instruments used in each song. The effects on his voice and guitars do not feel over-tuned or forced, making the songs where each effect is featured become cinematic and spacious. The opening track, "Intro", is exactly what the title says it is, with the eventual build-up from the soft synths and piano transition into this pinging guitar that perfectly introduces the title track, "Sunny Boy". In his first record, Momney focuses on huge and cinematic climaxes. Although that aspect is somewhat lacking on this record, he reinvents this signature with huge drops. Drops that would typically be overloaded with many instruments are kept simple, by adding a

kick drum on "Show Runner 99" and a dynamic synth on "HEADSTART". There is only one instance in which I felt the production of a song did not match the thematic sound of the album, and that was the song "autonanon", in which the soft synths and keyboard is replaced with aggressive percussion and an otherwise unnerving atmosphere. Besides the heavily layered and synth-prominent songs, there are also many songs that keep it bone dry and let his soft and intimate voice shine, such as "Screwtape" and "Dress Song".

The cryptic and unique lyrics from his first record are still present on *Sunny Boy*, but the intimacy of the lyrics and themes are heightened. Following the fame of his cover of "Put Your Record On", I wondered how he would display his emotions to a now bigger audience, to which he does it wonderfully. In contrast to the title of the album, the theme of darkness is present throughout. Whether that be in songs like "Screwtape" or "autonanon", Momney gives darkness a different meaning, and in the last track "Dress Song", he presents an optimistic view of getting out of the darkness by surrounding himself with love, identity, and his own mind.

Sunny Boy is one of my favorite albums of the year. The production is clean and inviting, throwing some curveballs to keep the listener active. The themes of the piece could help listeners get in touch with how they can get through their own personal darkness, and in the end, become a Sunny Boy.

50 Hour Updates

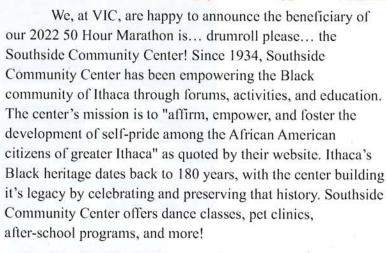
by: Ava Borardi

The 50 Hour Marathon: 4 DJs, 1 Nonprofit, 0 Sleep. The Voice of Ithaca College's 35th Annual Marathon is coming up! During the Spring semester, four VIC DJs spend upwards of two days straight on air, raising money for a local organization doing work to help our Ithaca community. The marathon has been awarded the "Serving New York" award twice, given out by the New York State Broadcasters Association.

As a prequel to the main event, this semester VIC hosted a Fall Benefit Concert. The concert was streamed over the VIC youtube channel with a live screening for those

attending IC. This event featured acts from IC's own Vestments and Library of Egress, along with a performance from local musician Sam Lupowitz and special performance from Sam

Harris of X Ambassadors of their hit single "Renegades". The bonding event acted as a kickoff to the fundraising, with donations from the night adding up to \$405.



Tune into the 50 Hour Marathon or visit their website sspride.org if you would like to support them and our student-run radio station. This Spring, catch some of the action on vicradio.org, simulcasting on 92 WICB 91.7 FM and ICTV.



SPECIALTY SHOW SPOTLIGHT

by: Lizzie Cordone

Jar of Jame with DJ Baloo

(aka Arlo (atan zaro)



What is Jar of Jam?

Jar of Jam is VIC's home for the best jam band music! Tune in for your favorite jams - bluegrass, rock, electronic and more.

How do you pick muic for the show?

I go for what I have been listening to currently and also pick some classic songs that I love that I haven't gotten the chance to play yet. If an artist came out with something recently, I will do my best to play that or if there was any recent news about an artist, I will try to play a song from them. I try to highlight smaller and unknown bands in the Jamband scene.

What do you love about the music?

I love Jambands, the greatest music on the planet. What keeps me going is the thought of going to another concert/festival. The music is simply magical, and you meet so many wonderful people. There is nothing quite like being all the way in the front and dancing your ass off at a Jamband concert. The reason why I am a TVR major and do Radio is due to Jambands and I just want to share my love of this music with everyone else and hopefully get some people to jam out with me.

What is your favorite part about husting the show?

My favorite part is being able to jam out in the studio but I also love being able to talk about music that I know a lot about. I am hoping to reach out to smaller bands to see if they want to do a promo for me.

SPOTLIGHT SONGS

- Box of Rain by the Grateful Dead
- Maze by Phish
- Blue Sky by The Allman Brothers St. Stephen by the Grateful Dead (From their Arcadia by Goose

 - Live/Dead Album)

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Curated Playlists

Stepping away from indie-focused-music, this is my some of my other favorite releases from this year! Once again, I have tried to find music for everyone, including genres such as pop, rap, rnb, shoegaze, and even some electronic/dance music! I included the hard hitters from this year, Tyler, the Creator, Silk Sonic, Ye West, and Lorde. I also tried to aim for not as well known artists, such as Parannoul, The Avalanches with MF DOOM, MIKE, and Chase Ceglie.

These are all the amazing new and old indie artists that have released some sick music this year! It is a fantastic blend of energizing, down-tempo, happy, and sad indie music, so it has a song for everybody! It features smaller artists like marlon amour, Neev, and Augie Isaac. The big indie heads will love the songs from Clairo, St. Vincent, and Snail Mail.

Interview with Akx Banin

by: Jack Berth

Jack: Before we start, do you want to introduce yourself a bit and what you do?

Alex: Yeah, I'm Alex Banin, and I say that I'm from New York, but might like musically I feel very from Chicago so I started music there, but I was also born in London that there for a bit and I'm in LA so hard to like pinpoint a home, but I would say New York, I was there for 10 years.

Jack: I initially discovered you with Alfo Media's Fan Showcase, so I wanted to know how submitting music for that was like?

Alex: Yeah that was a few years ago, I had one song out and my friend really likes his videos and has sent me a bunch and they were like "oh my god you need to do this", and I didn't think I would be in it, but I was. He's sick, his videos are cool and it was cool to be a part of that.

Jack: How do you feel it affected your exposure to a bigger audience?

Alex: I feel like everything like that especially like Alfo Media or Harrison who has a following and a dedicated people, people who really listen to that, it's always really cool to see how people will at least check you out. I don't want to say niche platforms, but people who are really able to engage with their audience, when they do give you a shoutout, people definitely give you a chance. I do feel like I still know people who have known me through him just based on who they're following. It's cool to have all these different branches in so many directions.

Jack: What was your experience collaborating with artists like Saba or Kota the Friend? How was that like?

Alex: Both really cool, I've been checking my Spotify playlist for 2018 and they've been on my playlists for years. Kota I met in Chicago, he knew my song and hit me up later, that was really cool and my first thing that I was apart of, that was super cool. Saba was someone that I looked up to especially being in Chicago and he had paved the way for so many people in Chicago and has such a unique sound. He works with a lot of the same people, that was less personal, my management reached out

to him, but he was super cool about it. We talked a little bit throughout the process, and he was definitely one of my first choices for that feature, so I was really excited that he was able to get on it and like it enough as well.

Jack: How do the music scenes of London, Chicago, and New York all differ?

Alex: I don't know much about the London or New York music scene, I spent my first 18 years in New York and a little bit in London. I've done a little bit of music in both, but in terms of getting connected to people, studios, venues, and people who like music, I would say Chicago was the start of that. I started showing people my music when I was 20, 19-20, and I was in Chicago for that. Vocalo Radio was the first radio and that's a very Chicago radio station that's sick and they put on all of these upcoming artists. They were the first radio show to reach out to me. Chicago has that type of stuff. I was able to cultivate the people I know and the people I work with kinda came from that scene. All my networks now in New York and London, or people I know pretty much all came from Chicago.

Jack: What other artists are you inspired by that you would also like to collaborate with in the future?

Alex: Well, I recently was on femdot's project, he was the last concert that I saw right before COVID, him and the Cool Kids, and I also work with Chuck Inglish now, so it's really cool to have these full circle moments repeatedly throughout my life. I feel that it is somewhat so that it is not daily, but I am like "what the hell". Chris Patrick is someone else who I've collaborated with who I had been a fan of. But in terms of future collaborations, I've been listening to the Dijon album a lot, but I feel like the best collaborations come from organically getting to know them or getting to know each other's sound, being in the same spaces; that's where the best collaboration comes from and that's not something you can really force. Even though I do have some dream collaborations.

Jack: How much has your sense of style and fashion influenced your styles for music videos, like the video for "Forget About It"?

Alex: Style's a strong word, but I definitely put clothes together! Obviously I thrift a lot, always have. I don't know if it's fashion necessarily, but art, and I don't wanna say content, but content and art I observe throughout the day and throughout my life, whether that's in person or in media. I have so many random pictures in my camera roll of things that stuck out to me on the street, and I look back at it and I say, "why did you take this?" But in the moment there was something so striking about this, I literally have trash on my phone, I have so many pictures of trash on my phone. Whether it was the colors or how it was broken, and those I pretty much take them to Michael and be like. "go through my trash pictures". There's other stuff too, like actual art and furniture that all fits in there. I wouldn't say I have a specific style, but I also think that comes through in my music videos, just kind of piecing things together. A lot of that music video was inspired by "Donnie Darko" and "Alice in Wonderland" kind-of-movies, where you have that fantasy element and mental element to.

Jack: Did that also inspire the paper machete bunny heads that you used throughout the music video?

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Alex: Yeah, there was this store at Rogers Park, Lost Eras, that I'm obsessed with. It's an antique store in Chicago and I would go there all the time and they would have 90 of these bunny heads. Throughout the years they depleted, and by the time where I was like, "I need to buy one", there was only 10 left, and it was so striking to have these all around the store. They reminded me of "Alice in Wonderland" or "Donnie Darko" and it was such a sick imagery to have a music video around. So I bought one, the others were rented because I couldn't justify buying 7.

Jack: You just released your latest EP, "DID I IMAGINE", where do you want your music to go next?

Alex: I was talking to someone about this the other day, it's not like sonically I try stuff, but I think based on who I work with and what we're going through at the time, a sound comes out of that, I just want music to be me. It's been a lot of down tempo, sad girl stuff, maybe it'll be like that for a little longer, but whatever sound comes out of that is what I'm going

towards. It's hard to pinpoint because I don't go into sessions like I want to sound like something, it just comes out sounding like something. It's annoying I don't want to sound "fake deep".

Jack: With that session process, what type of people do you have with you for a session?

Alex: It just depends, I've worked with a lot of new producers in since moving out to LA, so those sessions I just like to get a feel of how we work together and just make a song, usually by scratches on the spot, seeing how as a person we mesh and how creatively we mesh, everyone has different processes. I'm always writing stuff in my room, so I take that to producers a lot, especially ones where we've built that repertoire, and be like, "this is the guitar", and I usually have someone else do it because I'm really bad at guitar, but I write alone. Vlush probably been one of my more go-to producers, so I'll come with more abstract ideas and we'd try a lot more new things in his sessions because he has a good baseline from where I'm at.

Jack: Do you plan tours or shows coming up that you want to showcase?

Alex: I'm playing in Chicago, opening for femdot, which was announced today, which I'm excited for. Nothing else is announceable and there's stuff in the works, but I will be playing this year which I'm excited for.

Jack: Are you excited for playing after a year with being in quarantine?

Alex: Yes, and I didn't think would be. I was like, "I don't even like performing", and I did my first show in the fall at Indiana University, and it was just so fun. I had the best time, I was like, "no this is sick", so I am excited. COVID hit very early on in my career, I hadn't done a lot of performing, I was doing DIY basement shows, I had a few smaller stripped-down sets but I'd never performed with a full band. I had one show with a full band, but it was very, very early in my performing days.

Jack: Do you feel like knowing what your music is like now, do you feel that your live performances can be more involved and include more people?

Alex: It was just the kind of venues I was booking, it was smaller venues, more intimate shows, so I didn't have the capacity to have a full band. For this (upcoming) show, it's at Bottom Lounge, it's a Chicago venue I've been to, nice, midsized venue. For those kind of shows I can bring out a full band so I'm excited to play, build it out too and start putting together a solid band.

Jack: What's a snack that you can't get enough of?

Alex: Pringles, sour cream and onion or sea salt vinegar. This has been this week, I'll always do this with snacks, I'll overeat them and then at some point I'm sick of them. So, catch me in a year you'll ask if I still get Pringles, and I'll say "I don't get those". In terms of fast food, probably Chipotle, but I do eat fast food way more than I should. I was just thinking of all the apps I have on my phone and Chipotle is the one I use the most. I delete them every week like, "I don't need this anymore, I'm going to eat good this week" and then redownload them, I have so many points.

Jack: Any last comments or self-plugs you want to say?

Alex: I'm probably going to release some stuff in February, so just listen out for that. Thank you guys for having me, this was fun!



Khameron Auerbach is a junior TVR major at Ithaca College. She is originally from Hollywood, Florida and works as the Promotions Director for the station.

Jack Dibitetto, also known as DJ Dack, is a sophomore at Ithaca College studying Cinema and Photo. DJ Dack is originally from Rochester, New York and currently hosts the VIC specialty show, A Bit Of Brit, which features music from British artists such as Queen, the Beatles and Adele, as well as an indie alternative show on Thursday mornings. DJ Dack sat down with us to tell us a little bit more about his DJing experience and his music taste outside of the station.

DJ K-Billy, also known as Matt Surridge, is a sophomore at Ithaca College studying film and photography. Matt, originally from \Rockland County, New York, has brought his passion for movies and their soundtracks to the station, co-hosting *At The Movies*.

Max Vallino, a sophomore Television and Radio Broadcasting major at Ithaca College, believes that joining VIC radio is one of the best things he has ever done. Originally from Spring City, Pennsylvania, Max, known on air DJ Coffee House, wants to carry this passion into his career, potentially hosting a radio show close to Philadelphia.

Parker: What's your DJ name?

DJ Khami: DJ Khami, nothing crazy, I was debating on changing it for a while, but I might. I got a few more semesters to change it. Well, I wear these little crocs around. I bought them in the summer. I haven't stopped wearing them since, and I mean, I'm also from South Florida. So, I was like DJ Croc? My friends and I came up with it. Maybe, maybe I haven't solidified it yet.

DJ K-Billy: DJ K-Billy, it's a reference to a movie I like because there's an off-screen DJ character. It's in *Reservoir Dogs*.

Parker: When did you start DJing?

DJ Dack: I started last semester. That was actually one of the things that sold me on this college was just like, 'Oh, that sounds like a really fun thing to do.' So, as soon as I found out about that, I went to the Org Fair, which was online, and just went from there.

P: What show do you DJ?

DKB: I do my normal shift, which is 2 to 4am on Saturdays, which is fun. And then from 11 to midnight on Friday nights I do *At The Movies*.

DK: Besides my regular shift, I also DJ VIC Slumber Party, which is like bedroom pop, DIY artists, self-produced stuff.

P: Who are your favorite artists or bands?

DK: I feel like it changes a lot, because I also just have a really insane [music taste]. At least to me, I think my music taste is just all over the place. But probably Gorillaz. They cover a lot of different musical bases, and their music is just amazing. They haven't really had any misses. I don't think yet, but yeah. I mean, obviously, my main thing is like indie, hence why I'm part of the station. I listened to a lot of different rock categories in general. I listened to rap, hip hop, jazz, soul, hyper pop electronic stuff, house. I'm just like all over the place. I've been trying. All my friends from home and here are just like, 'you listen to everyone.'

DCH: Currently, right now, Joy Division is one of them. I like a lot of old indie, so that's kind of how I got into VIC.

DD: I'd say Greta Van Fleet, right now. I really like them because I feel like they have this older rock-feel of Led Zeppelin. I really like Led Zeppelin too. But I feel like Greta Van Fleet has a really nice texture to it that Led Zeppelin doesn't have.

P: Where do you think you've got your musical taste? Who's your biggest influence, music wise?

DCH: That's a good question. I think mainly my mom. She showed me my first Smiths song, which was "Girlfriend In a Coma". At first, I was just kind of sitting there like, 'okay, it's kind of weird song to be listening to, this guy wants to murder his girlfriend'. Then, I looked into their other songs. I was like, 'Okay, this is really cool, I like this'. And then I started looking into other genres in this area of music, and I just loved it so much.

DKB: I get music from movies, basically. And my parents are older, they're going to be like 60 now. So I grew up on a lot of pop culture that was kind of like a generation behind me, which is interesting. So, like, a lot of 70s and 80s, stuff like that. So, like I love Rush, Foreigner and Journey are the other ones that I really dig. Movie wise, it all kind of goes back to Star Wars, that was kind of like the origin point, starting off from there and finding all like the Spielberg and Lucas movies from then. And then, I mean, Tarantino, his stuff just because of how referential it is. It just continued on a million different rabbit holes. So, you watch his Western references, like a million other westerns and you can find soundtracks and everything from that. I just kept going kind of deeper and deeper down those rabbit holes and doing more research and that stuff that kind of shaped my taste with that.

P: What's your favorite song on the air right now?

DK: I really like, "A Lot Of Times I Don't Know What To Say". I forget who its, but that song has been like a worm in my brain for like the last like, three, four weeks. Dream Home, that's the artist.

DCH: Oh, there was one by the band Moontype. It was called *When You Say Yes.* And it just always played anytime I was down there. I love that song. It was like one of those ones where you hear it on the radio just and every time I was like, 'Oh, this song.' I love it so much.

DD: There's a song called 'Pins and Needles' that I really like. I'm weird when it comes to music. I don't listen to lyrics. I don't process them. It like, just kind of washes over me, words and songs are just like noises that you can articulate to me. I like the textures of songs. I like how they feel and how they sound and like the rhythms and stuff like that. So, 'Pins

and Needles' has a certain texture that I'd like a little bit like, sandy or a little bit grittier of a texture that I appreciate.

P: Are there any music releases that you're looking forward to right now?

DK: Well, I just heard Beach House is coming out with an album in February. I know Snail Mail is coming out at some point. I don't know when that's coming out. But I'm looking forward to that whenever that's coming out. Gorillaz said they would come out this year. I don't think it's coming out this year. But whenever they end up coming out with their next album, I'm looking forward to that. There's so much coming out. I know Silk Sonic just came out with stuff yesterday, I listened to it. That was awesome. I've been trying to catch up on a lot of albums. I've been really behind on catching up on new releases.

P: Do you have any specific really memorable shifts in the studio?

DCH: I do have one. My girlfriend came down with me actually, on Sunday. It was actually very nice, because she was supposed to have filming, but instead she was like, 'Yeah, they canceled. What are you

doing?' And I was like, 'Oh, you know, waking up at five a.m. going into the radio station.' She goes, 'Okay, can I come with you?' And we had a really good time. She got to see me DJing. It was great.

DK: Um, I mean, a lot of them have been really fun. I don't know why but right now, I'm thinking about this one time I used to co-host with someone different in freshman year and there was one time that I brought my switch in, and we played like Mario Kart while we were on the air. Fun. You know? I can't think of specific things right now, but that that was a fun night.

P: How do you see DJing impacting your future? Is it something that you like plan to continue to do?

DCH: There are a couple of radio stations near me. I live near Philadelphia. So, I really want to do that. Because every morning in high school, I listen to this one radio show 933 WMMR. And it was like a classic rock show. But in the mornings, they'd have this thing called Preston and Steve. And it's just two guys talking in the room. And they have like a soundboard, and they'd have guests and stuff. And it's just I love it so much me and my mom would listen to it. And they'd say just the funniest stuff.

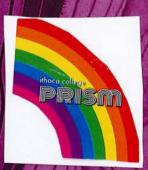
P: What advice would you get someone like looking to start DJing?

DD: I would just say, just do it to have fun. I just went in with that mentality and I've been really enjoying it. Anytime I can be in the studio. I will. Yeah, I think that you know, just go in look to have fun and like don't look at it as a serious thing. Look at it as a thing that you get to do. This is an opportunity that our college has that maybe others don't know.

DCH: Don't be hesitant. Just do it. That's what I did. And they'll teach you the way. You have to get your hours in. It may seem annoying, but in all honesty, it's like the best thing I ever did. And I love it so much. Please do it.

act involved on emps!

IC Prism



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Graphic Novel Advisory Board

We are a group of IC students who get together to review children's, teens, and adult graphic novels. Along with other outreach and events, we publish a newsletter to share our findings with rural librarians and community centers and discuss ways for them to enhance their collections of graphic novels. Our mission is to work with libraries to help make graphic novels more available for readers of all ages.

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