

www.kowtowpopof.com

A singer/songwriter from the Washington, DC area, **Kowtow Popof** has released 5 CDs of original music. He recently collaborated with pop electronica band Hitchcock Blonde on their 2006 debut CD "Soul Button," co-writing and singing lead on six of the band's original tunes. He's also appeared on the Wampus tributes "After Hours: a Tribute to the Music of Lou Reed" (2003), and "If I Were a (Jonathan) Richman" (2001).

Kowtow Popof's End of Greatness: Rime of the Astral Maroon . . .

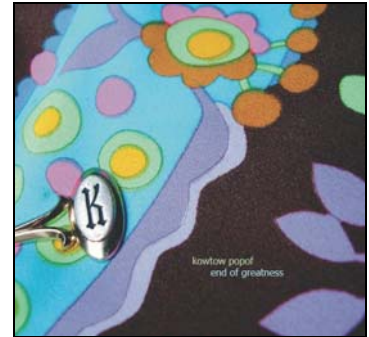
If you think "End of Greatness" is a term coined by Harvard scientist Robert Kirshner to describe, as Wikipedia puts it, "an observational scale discovered at roughly 100 Mpc where the lumpiness seen in the large-scale structure of the universe is homogenized and isotropized as per the Cosmological Principle", you could be mistaken. It depends on what universe you inhabit. In Kowtow Popof's alternative cosmos, *End of Greatness* is the title of his new CD on Wampus Multimedia.

The new release is a break-up album of astronomic proportions, or possibly a personal view of the disintegration of love on a universal scale. But whether you are sobbing in your microbrew over a Dear John text message, scrutinizing with some solicitude the threshold of infinity, or simply trying to get through the day, *End of Greatness* is for you.

From the time-capsule everyday existence of the guitar-driven lead-off "Life as Hobby" to the acoustic pop title track, an ode to the final throes of a relationship, Kowtow gives the listener a lift through the heartbroken ether, playfully pointing out roadside attractions and distractions ("Things That Aren't Comets"), including the occasional aging god ("Oblivion"), a warehouse of inner strength on the outer limits ("Tribute 2 Mice Elf"), and the convenience store of the apocalypse ("Slim Jims & Tab").

If only break-ups were this much fun, or at least this interesting . . . While contemplating his navel with Hubble-like perspective, Kowtow sings plaintively with his acoustic guitar, weaving blues-inflected electric guitar with machine-click rhythms, tinkling piano, swirling samples, and warbling synths, creating a sound both familiar and fantastic. From this resonating rocket ship, the listener hears a jilted space monster's forlorn cry ("Thought You'd Come Around") morph into a fine-tuned, down-to-earth, pop rock kiss-off ("On the Run"), then observes the Milky Way from outside the galaxy in the driving sci fi theme song "Exalted Headband," only to be pulled back home by the tune's rueful reprise, "Empty Orchestra."

Underlying the tragicomic, trans-mundane goings-on is a thread of hopefulness that anchors the record. Against the when-worlds-collide backdrop of "Amazing Tales," as the song fades into sirens, a crowd sings somewhere in a downtown bar, "everyone walks on/in shadow or in sun/looking for the thing they lost just after the dawn." When Kowtow reaches his conclusion in the finale title track, he's found something in the nothingness, aspiration rather than despair. So for all you pessimists and doomsayers who'd take a physicist's end of greatness pronouncement to mean Armageddon, take heart instead. In the musical universe, it's the name of the latest and greatest CD by Kowtow Popof.



UPD: 837101269148
SRP: \$11.99
Release date: 12/12/2006

Track Listing:

1. Life as Hobby (4:09)
2. Thought You'd Come Around (3:37)
3. On the Run (4:41)*
4. Things That Aren't Comets (4:00)
5. Oblivion (4:12)*
6. Exalted Headband (3:22)
7. Tribute 2 Mice Elf (2:55)
8. Amazing Tales (3:07)*
9. Gone 4 Good (3:04)*
10. Slim Jims & Tab (4:10)
11. Empty Orchestra (2:59)
12. End of Greatness (4:12)*

*Suggested Listening

Written and performed by Kowtow Popof. Mastered by Eamon Loftus.

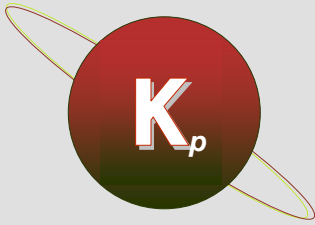
Available at CDBaby, iTunes,
and other fine online stores.



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Two songs from *End of Greatness*, *Oblivion* and *Amazing Tales*, appear on the 2006 *Hitchcock Blonde* CD *Soul Button* as completely different versions. Three songs from *End of Greatness* were introduced on the 2003 limited edition EP sampler *Kowtow Drops the Pop Off*. The sampler also features tracks from Kowtow's next project, the all-instrumental *Exalted Headband*, set for release in 2007.

Press

Kowtow Drops the Pop Off:

"K.P. is a skilled songwriter, arranger and producer. Neither a rock purist nor a electronica zealot, he crafts music that balances songcraft with samples and swooshes. Any guy who can invoke Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" while singing about "Slim Jims & Tab" over a tick-tock electrobeat is not about to be typecast." - *Mark Jenkins, The Washington Post*

"Oddly blending electro-pop beats with indie folk's flavors, Kowtow Popof pieces together puzzles that have been scattered about by the likes of Elvis Costello, Beck, Dylan, and the '80's electronic rock movement on *Kowtow Drops the Pop Off*. While certainly imaginative this isn't derivative of folk's more-enlightened-than-thou singer/songwriter clichés. I like it." - *J-Sin, Smother.net*

"Kowtow Popof (cool name) writes great little pop songs and dresses them up in his very singular fashion: a little electronica, a little folk, a little just plain weirdness." - *Norman Famous, Normanfamous.com*

Eat My Dust:

"These clever, fast-talking tunes rock resolutely, but also clean up real nice. Vast, open-sky guitars render the ballads absolutely heart-breaking." - *Listen.com*

"This record reeled me in like a helpless fish . . . This is one of few really good driving records that I've heard in a while." - *Heidi Drockelman, Indie-Music.com*

Coaster:

"*Coaster* is full of lively acoustic/electric folk and rock . . . The title track is an impeccable pop classic." - *Time and a Word Music News*

"A skewed snapshot of Americana." - *Songwriter'sMonthly*

"*Coaster* lopes along a moody undercurrent of warmth and grace, carefully constructed to reap the maximum reward from minimal sonics." - *J. Doug Gill, Music Monthly*

Songs from the Pointless Forest:

"A resounding triumph . . . as warm, full-bodied, and intelligent as they come." - *J. Doug Gill, Music Monthly*

"Makes a lyrical statement on alienation as bleak, powerful and dead-on as Pink Floyd ever did." - *Ian Koss, Ink Nineteen*



Musical description:

Electronic garage folk rock; Graham Parker meets David Bowie in Moby's basement; Bill Nelson and Blue Rodeo on a bender with Beck.

"Preternaturally surrealist post pop." - *Eve Zibart, The Washington Post*

Discography:

End of Greatness (2006)
Kowtow Drops the Pop Off (2003)
Eat My Dust (1999)
Coaster (1996)
Songs From the Pointless Forest (1993)

Live: Kowtow performs live with electric guitarist Rob Santos. Previous appearances include the Dewey Beach Music Conference, Harrisburg PA's Millennium Music Conference, and Iota Club & Cafe in Arlington VA.

Format:

AAA, Modern Pop, Alternative Rock, Modern Folk

More Links:

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