

ARTS & VARIETY

Music During the Pandemic

BY ANNA FRITZE

The coronavirus has affected the music world in many ways. While quarantine has been a boring, lonely isolation for most, many musicians have been trying to bring some entertainment and joy into the lives of people doing their part and staying at home. By now, many users of Instagram and other social media have heard of Together, At Home. This is a sort of encouragement for people staying at home by musicians. It is believed that Coldplay started the trend of putting on live concerts from his home on Instagram so fans can watch at home. People like John Legend with his family and Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie followed suit and put on live concerts from their homes.

Musicians recognized at the beginning of the quarantine that people really needed some positivity in their lives. Because of this, there has been music released early to sort of raise the spirits of fans. Hayley Williams from Paramore released some unforeseen music before the release of her new solo album, 5 Seconds of Summer sent out their albums to people who pre-ordered them before the date they were supposed to arrive, and All Time Low released more songs off of their new album before its release.

Bands with ongoing tours have had to make decisions they thought would be best for them and their fans. It seemed like, for the most part, bands with a larger fan base tended to postpone their concerts, while bands with smaller fan bases either completely canceled their tour or moved it all to Zoom or Instagram Live. Some tours that were postponed include Louis Tomlinson, The Lumineers, and Milky Chance. Smaller bands have been doing what they can to keep it creative. Bands like Deal Casino and Dreamers have live shows, but they don't do them alone. They released dates that they will be live and then feature different musical guests each date with them. The two bands converse before the music and then either take turns playing or play together, which is a pretty cool experience.

While postponing has been going on for the months in the near future, the fear that tours going on this summer could still be postponed or canceled still exists. The band Journey, touring with the Pretenders, has a summer tour that hangs in the uncertainty of whether or not the dates will remain the same. A big deal in the world of rock, punk, and alternative music, the Hella Mega tour has already had some issues. This tour that includes the bands Green Day, Fall Out Boy, Weezer, the Interrupters, and two more openers has already postponed shows that were set to happen in Europe. As of now, tour dates are still in place for this summer, and fans are nervously waiting as the dates in America get closer to see what decisions are made.

Book Review: Little Weirds

BY HALLE MARTIN

Jenny Slate is a self-described human woman of thirty-boink years old weighing one hundred and doo-dad pounds, but you might know her better as the voice behind Missy from *Big Mouth* or as Jean-Ralphio's semi-psychotic sister, Mona-Lisa, in *Parks and Recreation*. If you follow the comedy genre to any degree, you have likely seen or heard Jenny Slate.

She first gained public recognition as a cast member on *Saturday Night Live*, but her time on the iconic sketch show was cut short after accidentally dropping the f-bomb on air. After this short stint, Slate went on to create the viral video short *Marcel the Shell* before building an impressive repertoire, including voicing Tammy on *Bob's Burgers* and Gidget in *The Secret Life of Pets*, as well as guest-starring on shows ranging from *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Kroll Show*, and *Girls*. She played Dr. Dora Skirth in *Venom* and stars in the film *Obvious Child* (available on Netflix). Oh, and she dated Captain America.

In 2019, she released a comedy special on Netflix and published a collection of essays titled *Little Weirds*. Over the break, I finally landed myself a copy and was quickly enraptured by the oddly fascinating mind of Jenny Slate. While she is not the first celebrity to come out with a book detailing her thoughts and experiences, she quickly set herself apart from the abundance of celebrity essays and memoirs.

As soon as I turned the page to the first essay, "Treat," I was captivated by her uniquely metaphorical way of detailing her innermost thoughts. Slate tugged me into her world as she disclosed one of her "fantasy dimensions" in which she bumps into you, a stranger, on the street and perhaps you might assume she is French (she's not). As you take her in and believe her to be a French woman, you get a closer look and find that she is a homemade Parisian Croissant. She tells you her backstory of her birth in fancy France, where she emerged warm and decadent from the oven. She pleads, "Let me be your morning treat with your coffee." Slate closes the introduction, explaining the many times she merely wants to be here for our consumption; this is what she is intended for; while this bizarrely magical little chapter comes to a close, it is just a taste of the sincere experiences and concerns Slate shares throughout the pages of *Little Weirds*.

From the yearning to be noticed and loved to the frustration of being belittled and talked over, Slate

vulnerably opens her mind and her heart to her readers through a post-modern-esque storytelling approach. While at times her personification may seem silly, it is equally endearing and brings her confessions to a relatable, heartfelt level with a childlike innocence. I recommend this book to anyone looking for an escape, a reason to smile (and maybe shed a tear or two), and for fans of comedy.

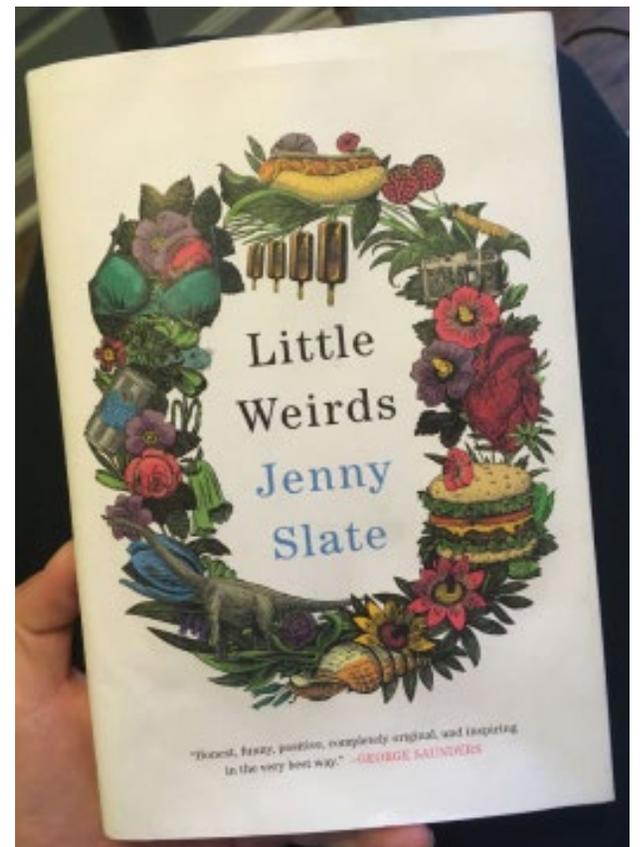


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