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Famous People Recording Awful Albums: Mark Batty Publisher Launches Uproarious New Book on this Noisy, Peculiar Topic

“Celebrity Vinyl” pairs more than 100 photographs of album art with hilarious observations about these less than radio-worthy projects

New York, NY, May 27, 2008 — Mark Batty Publisher, a leader in distinctive books covering the graphic and communication arts, has announced the publication of “Celebrity Vinyl,” a book that reveals the pitfalls of TV stars, sports heroes and other media icons who decided to record music albums of their own. Every album illustrated in the book is accompanied by the sometimes outraged, often sassy, and always witty observations of author Tom Hamling, whose comments dissect both the graphic design of the album covers and the celebrities themselves.

Among those featured in “Celebrity Vinyl” are Bruce Willis (“The Return of Bruno”), Eddie Murphy (“How Could it Be?”), the National Hockey League’s New York Islanders (“A Christmas Album”), Alyssa Milano (“Alyssa”), Leonard Nimoy (“Mr. Spock’s Music from Outer Space”), Shaquille O’Neal (“I’m Outstanding”), Burt Reynolds (“Ask Me What I Am”), Raquel Welch (“This Girl’s Back in Town”) and dozens of others.

“Celebrity Vinyl” got its start when the advertising agency where Hamling once worked decided to throw out all of the records and cassettes in its audio library so they could be replaced with CDs. Subsequently, Hamling spent close to a decade acquiring additional celebrity vinyl by rooting through record store bins and traveling to flea markets far and wide.

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“Sometimes I feel like Dr. Richard Kimble in search of not one, but many one-armed men,” said Hamling of his ongoing quest to collect these curiously compelling pieces of pop-culture history. “Except that my search is for guys like Jesse ‘The Body’ Ventura and William ‘Refrigerator’ Perry, who really do prove that what I have is the ‘worst’ collection ever. This book is a study in the consecration of fame. It’s an examination of those who are demoted to the C-List just by virtue of stepping into a recording studio.”

About Mark Batty Publisher

Mark Batty Publisher is an independent publisher dedicated to making distinctive books on the visual art of communicating, showcasing the visual power and innovation of contemporary culture in all of its varied poses. Today, the visual comes at us from more places than ever, and its dissemination is faster and more advanced every year. Books from Mark Batty Publisher capture this acceleration on the pages of every book. Affordable, well designed, thoughtfully created, and produced to last, MBP books are artful products that readers want to hold onto forever. For more information, visit www.markbattypublisher.com.

Celebrity Vinyl

Tom Hamling

Popular Culture, Music, Humor

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Color throughout

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