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Cult Members and Carrier Pigeon Senders,

Happy (Belated) July! Summer is in full swing and the weather in San Deigo could not be more San Diego. The sun is shining, the women are jogging in Pacific & Mission Beach, and the Zonies' are back on their home turf (Labor Day is coming). While we lick our wounds from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and brace for the battles ahead, let's not forget to stop and enjoy the moment. In a week that we lost Ozzy, Hulk, Epstein's Lawyer, and Anne Burrell, we need to find the positives in life and emphasize them.

This was a weird month for me ROTMwise. It's the 24<sup>th</sup>, and I hadn't put much thought into this month's record. I considered something from LCD Sound System, as well as Counting Crows *August and Everything After*. While both would have been fair choices, they didn't have the right feel. I thought to myself – "when in doubt, go with what ya know." I just did 3EB last month, I've done 2 Daft Punk Albums in the last calendar year, and the Fred album's I would like to do are not readily available. I considered doing Daft Punk's *Discovery* anyway (my top album of theirs, stacked with the hits, a real moodsetter), but alas this too is pretty difficult to come by. Then like the impending doom of my credit rating every morning – it hit me. I haven't done anything from this band, despite being one of my top overall artists. I saw them live several months ago and hardly made mention of them, *and* this set is definitely my most played set of all time. I'm talking wayyyy into triple digits. I've probably listened to or watched this set start to finish 200+ times. It is with great honor I present to you **Rufus Du Sol's *Live from Joshua Tree!***

Recorded in September of 2019, this live concert set took place in the Joshua Tree State Park in southern California. Almost precisely synonymous with the onset of the COVID19 Declaration of Solitude, the set was publicly released in March 2020. Yeah, 50/200x were in those first few months of COVID isolation. But those other 150x are consistently spread out like Skippy Peanut Butter to the present day. I'll put it on when I'm running, hiking with the dog, or painting. It just helps me get in to and feel good about whatever it is I'm doing - and that's what music is for. Music is your personal soundtrack to your

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life. It makes the mundane and ordinary, enjoyable and entertaining. It gets the wheels turning in our minds. When we're mentally occupied and satisfied with the external stimuli in our environment, that's when we find *real* focus. Our minds subconsciously look past that first needs to create an apt environment. I turn out my best productivity – whether work or pleasure related – when I am at one with my surroundings. I think that is kind of the whole theme behind this album – at least to me. Also real quick – I've seen a ton of people attempting to identify writing as AI based on excessive hyphen usage. I'd just like to assure you that this is *not* AI – I am just a run on sentence writer that happens to enjoy the proper use of a hyphen. Anyway, from the album cover, to the film, and the tracks, the vibe of this album is all on the same page.

As this album is a live recording, the tracks are not new releases per say. In typical DJ format, the set consists of one ongoing recording, in which the artist jumps between (7) of their top songs. *Valley of the Yuccas* is a special *Intro* sector of the set that is not part of any other track or recording, but does get it's own track listing on this album as an 8<sup>th</sup> overall track. The band is known for their live sets, as they play the top venues all over the world, put on a phenomenal pyro-technique show, and really cater to their audience. I've seen them 4 or 5 or 6 times now, most recently in Austin, TX. Austin is a wonderful city. If not for it being in Texas I may have reconsidered my current living arrangements. The venue we saw them at actually *wasn't* a great venue, but the band themselves were great.

My favorite song from the band, of all of their collective work, is Solace. I think the lyrics and melody are beautiful. They do such cool stuff with the drum kits and synth machines, and implement such ordinarily abrasive sounds seamlessly into the melody. I think it's amazing. And *this* version of Solace is the best album version of it out there. They do play it live at every show, and yes they do put on *every time* for it. I think my life peaked feeling the bass vibrate through my body as I stood directly in front of the 10' tall speaker at the front R of the stage in the pit. Not quite the same fire and inspiration that Pearl Jam's *Alive* gives me – but it's a strong number 2.

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This week in concerts I am missing:

Dispatch @ Cal Coast Open Air Amp., San Diego, CA 7/24

Oasis @ Wembley Stadium, Wembley, UK 7/25 & 7/26

See ya in August Augustus,

*Dan Diego*

PS – I've decided to let the Haliburton thing go seeing as his script includes an Achilles tear that'll keep him off the court for a full year... or will it????

PPS – It's finally happening. The website is coming and ready for a soft launch. I have to actually write a bio and some other snippets, but the bones and the meat are there. I've got just about all my finished art products, and as many of the ROTM write ups as I could find. As current subscribers, please enjoy pre-access to the official provider of the Dan Diego Record of the Month Club © Dan Amato

[danamatoart.com](http://danamatoart.com)

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## Past ROTMs:

November 2023: Desire, I Want to Turn Into You – Caroline Polachek

December 2023: Depression Cherry – Beach House

January 2024: MTV Unplugged Live from New York – Nirvana

February 2024: Actual Life 2 – Fred Again..

March 2024: Music from the LOTR Trilogy – The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra

April 2024: Greatest Hits: Volume 1 – James Taylor

May 2024: Hybrid Theory – Linkin Park

June 2024: Ursa Major – Third Eye Blind

July 2024: Live 1997 – Daft Punk

August 2024: White Ladder, Live in Austin – David Gray

September 2024: Tidal – Fiona Apple

October 2024: Kid A – Radiohead

November 2024: Alive 2007 – Daft Punk

December 2024: Ten – Pearl Jam

January 2025: Balloonerism – Mac Miller

February 2025: Ceremonials – Florence + The Machine

March 2025: Narrow Stairs – Death Cab for Cutie

April 2025: Pang – Caroline Polachek

May 2025: 4:44 – Jay-Z

June 2025: Third Eye Blind – Third Eye Blind

July 2025: Live from Joshua Tree – Rufus Du Sol