

**the // skyway **

the replacements mailing list

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The Replacements, circa 1987-1989

WAKE UP

It's been about a month since the last issue of the Skyway, and it is great to get another one out so soon, because normally it takes a season or two to find enough letters, recollections, rumors, links, and photos to put together something that feels important enough to ask people to read. The reason I'm sending this now is not because I have found a new archive, but because there's a new Replacements recording coming out (and no, it's not April 1st).

So is this something to get excited about? Here is a cue card for all the devil's advocate arguments you can have with your music-loving friends about whether this release counts as a legitimate return of our heroes:

- "The Replacements" in this case are just Paul Westerberg and Tommy Stinson and whatever rock-capable friends they could find at the time.

Then again, once Bob Stinson left in 1986, and Chris Mars left in 1990, the version of the Replacements on the "All Shook Down" tour was essentially the same story, right?

- This 'album' is a bunch of covers of show tunes and some ballads from the 70's bashed out in one afternoon.

If you ever saw the Replacements live, that sounds about right.

- They're just doing this for the money.

Yes, to help their bandmate pay his medical bills. These guys are about one of the last bands that you ever would have expected to be socially charitable fellows, but between this and Tommy's constant fundraising for Haiti, apparently all that Scandinavian social contract stuff rubbed off on these guys.

I haven't heard it yet, but the reports are that Westerberg's comment that they "still rock like murder" is an honest assessment. I hope these auctions raise enough that I wouldn't be an auction winner for one of the original 250 copies on my Mediterranean teacher's salary (nor would I anyway trust this island's kamikaze motorcycle postmen to deliver it in one piece), but I can't wait to hear the results. If nothing else, just getting Paul, Tommy, and Chris's signatures all in one place would be incredible. And that the money would go towards the rehabilitation of one of the wisest and genuine men in the world of rock makes it even better.

I can't think of a bunch of people I'd rather hear from circa 1991 (except maybe Ed McMahon.)

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UPDATE ON BOB "SLIM" DUNLAP – and the newest recording from THE REPLACEMENTS!



Slim Dunlap, guitarist for the Replacements, is recovering from the cerebral stroke and fall he had on 19 February 2012 that has resulted in his semi-paralysis and inability to swallow.

To support Slim and to help cover his medical bills, **Paul Westerberg** and **Tommy Stinson** got together and recorded some covers. From the <http://www.songsforslim.com> website:

In September 2012, **Paul Westerberg** and **Tommy Stinson** reunited and entered **Flowers Studio** in Minneapolis (with **Kevin Bowe** on guitar and **Peter Anderson** on drums) to record Slim's song "Busted Up." Knocked out by the result, they roared through a few more numbers including **Leon Payne's** (by way of **Hank Williams**) "Lost Highway," **Gordon Lightfoot's** (by way of **Nico**) "I'm Not Sayin'," and "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from the Broadway show *Gypsy*.

Original **Replacements** drummer **Chris Mars** had already recorded a scorching one-man-band version of Slim's "Radio Hook Word Hit," and all 5 tracks were combined onto this EP to launch the series.

This is the first new **Replacements** release since 1990's *All Shook Down*. Only 250 numbered, 10" vinyl EPs are being made.

Additional features include:

- Cover autographed by **Paul Westerberg, Tommy Stinson & Chris Mars**
- 4 glossy prints of never-before-seen band photos
- Collectors' poster of **Slim**
- Print of the full **Chris Mars** cover painting on the inner sleeve
- Digital download card of entire EP
- 180 gram vinyl

TRACKLISTING

Side A:

1. Busted Up (Slim Dunlap)
2. Radio Hook Word Hit (Slim Dunlap)

Side B:

1. I'm Not Sayin' (Gordon Lightfoot)
2. Lost Highway (Leon Payne)
3. Everything's Coming Up Roses (Stephen Sondheim/Jule Styne)



OTHER VERSIONS

All tracks will also be made available digitally post-auction, with a commercial 12" vinyl version hitting stores this spring. There may also be an album compilation of the tracks later in the year.

The copies will be auctioned off as a benefit for Slim beginning on **January 15** and will continue through **January 25, 2013**. Links to the auctions are at <http://songsforslim.com/pages/auction>:

"The Replacements' *Songs For Slim* 10" vinyl EP auctions will begin showing up on this page Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 8:00AM PST. You will be able to bid on #1/250, and every 3 minutes we will put the next one up, until #250/250 is put up for bidding at 10:27PM that night. Each auction will last exactly 10 days.

Our auctions are handled through eBay Giving Works, a division of eBay that works with charities and non-profit organizations. Look for our username, **NewWestAuction**, on all Songs For Slim auctions on eBay to ensure authenticity and that proceeds will go to benefit Slim's recovery."

The EP is being released by **New West Records**, the label of **Peter Jespersen** (the manager for the Replacements from their start up to the *Tim* era).

This is just the start of a series of singles to support Slim. The next auctions will continue to be singles of other bands covering Slim songs, such as a single of **Steve Earle** playing "Times Like This" backed with **Craig Finn** playing "Isn't It?" on February 15, 2013, and **Lucinda Williams** covering "Partners in Crime" with **Tommy Keene** playing "Nowheres Near" on March 15.

The Current 89.3 reports future charity singles will come from **Frank Black**, **The Jayhawks**, **Deer Tick**, **Jakob Dylan**, **NRBQ**, **The Young Fresh Fellows**, **You Am I**, **The Minus 5** (with **Peter Buck**) and more.

You can find out more news from *Songs For Slim* from their Facebook and Twitter sites.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SongsForSlim>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SongsForSlim>

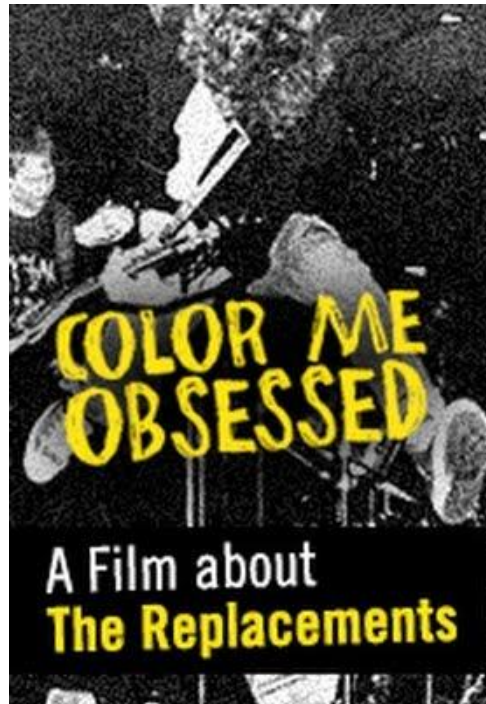
Slim "needs daily nursing care and expensive medications", and probably has the same amazing health insurance plan as all career independent rock musicians (i.e. none). If you want to support Slim with a donation, Dan Baird of the Georgia Satellites created a **fundraiser** to help pay for Slim's medical bills: <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/9Hhw0>

You can also **write Slim and his family** personally at:

Slim Dunlap and family
4006 Washburn Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410 USA

Get well soon, Slim.

COLOR ME IMPRESSED



If you haven't seen it yet, **Color Me Obsessed** is a movie by filmmaker and author Gorman Bechard that shows the influence and story of the Replacements' solely through interviews with friends and fans of the band. Like I mentioned in the last issue, the movie has **finally been released on DVD**:

http://www.amazon.com/Color-Me-Obsessed-about-Replacements/dp/B0091JJ24Q/ref=pd_bxgy_mov_text_y

The DVD contains hours of extra interviews and segments, but you can see the documentary itself here:

http://www.youtube.com/movie?v=yY2q3mF5Tk0&feature=mv_sr

THE REPLACEMENTS

- Even twenty years later, people have been writing about their Replacements experiences. One is a masters student named Matt Domino who has **great personal anecdotes about *Let It Be***:

“After I graduated college, I spent a stint teaching at a private school in New Hampshire right on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee. The summer was spent teaching students from Thailand about American culture and the American education system. As part of this teaching, we were given small focus groups of eight

students with which we were to discuss current events, American customs and values or relevant cultural touchstones. I had the inclination to teach my group about the Replacements. Not because I was a rebellious punk – I have always been far from it – but because it seemed to make the most sense to use the band as an example for these kids, who came from a rigid memory based education, to the merits of forming an opinion and expressing it with passion and conviction.”

<http://www.puddlesofmyself.com/2010/03/go-to-mats.html>

There is also a “mediation” on **“Here Comes a Regular” and life in Minnesota around Lake Harriet** in the middle of the Twin Cities from Alex Theoharides (who is on Twitter as @Minne_Pop):

<http://www.puddlesofmyself.com/2012/05/here-comes-regular.html>

- A fellow Nebraskan wrote about when he **saw the Replacements in Omaha at Peony Park Ballroom on May 25, 1989**. His story of the fickleness of romance is a great reminder of the dogmatic standards of teen fandom:

<http://nothemingway.wordpress.com/2011/08/06/thunder-review-the-replacements-live-peony-park-ballroom-may-25-1989/>

- I remember when you had to scrounge to find bootlegs of early Replacements shows, but the servers of Google (in some glacier in Iceland or wherever they are) hold sonic gold. There are probably more people reading this now than were at the 7th Street Entry to see the Replacements on June 24, 1982, but this **live recording of Buck Hill** (intertwined with a vocal line from “Another Girl, Another Planet”) shows how Bob Stinson was an idiot savant in the best and worst ways.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XALqfxtMGxY&list=UUp2yImPaajaelN4DV5X0SBA&index=27>

- And you have to hear it to believe it, but most people can’t even do this sober: **play one song (the Beatles’ “Let It Be”) while singing the lyrics to another (“Fuck School”)**, much less in front of record company executives at your show in New York City in 1984:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nnwYyegYkg&list=UUp2yImPaajaelN4DV5X0SBA&index=33>

- Speaking of Replacements shows, Mark Svensson (markatsvensson@hotmail.com) is **looking for a recording of the following show** that he attended. It has showed up on a list of shows that have copies circulating at one time, but he hasn't been able to find it.

12/04/85 - Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

- The day after Bob Stinson's birthday, somebody posted to YouTube **a tribute to Bob Stinson** created by Ray Reigstad, Bob's bandmate in his post-Replacements rock band Static Taxi.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPQNX7bScY4&>

PAUL WESTERBERG

- There is an interview of Paul Westerberg from the Stereo/Mono era (2002). Part one gives **some insight into his perspective of his solo career and why he stopped the extensive touring** that he did for his first two solo albums in the 1990s. Part three talks about being a dad and going on tour, and part four talks about his perspective about the music business.

Part one: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le9aRjcqZY0>

Part two: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5yrjvntdu0>

Part three: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjAFDUTOKUg>

Part four: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K98tdLj0UKw>

TOMMY STINSON

- Tommy's time in the band **Perfect** was a disappointing tragedy in that they had recorded one of the best post-Replacements albums with Jim Dickenson at Ardent Studios (the same magic combination as on *Pleased to Meet Me*), but the album and the band were lost in the massive record label re-shuffling of the late 90's. When their album finally saw public release with Rykodisc in 2004, two of its best songs – **"Peg Song"** and **"Don't Look Down"** – were left off the release for some reason. Now you can now hear them at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IT164qcC7k&list=UUp2yImPaajaelN4DV5X0SBA&index=17>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpFgByCVIYQ&list=UUp2yImPaajaelN4DV5X0SBA&index=16>

CHRIS MARS

- Chris Mars has **released a short film called “In Hanford”** about the victims of the nuclear weapon production plants in Washington state during the Cold War. The film has a look like an animated version of his surrealist, nightmarish art. It has begun to be shown at film festivals, including Sundance. It was **nominated for Best Short Film at the Chicago International Film Festival**.

A preview of “In Hanford”:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10150594318878168>

“In Hanford” in the Internet Movie Database:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2342151/>

“In Hanford” to be shown at the Sundance Independent Film Festival:

<http://www.sundance.org/festival/release/2013-sundance-film-festival-announces-short-film-program/>

fin.

“What’s money?

A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night
and in between does what he wants to do.”

- Bob Dylan