

SUN ON THE SAND

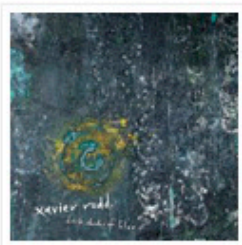
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Top 30 Albums of 2008

Dec 12th, 2008

As 2008 gradually winds to a close, we here at Sun On The Sand would like to acknowledge the aural blessings we've been graced with this year. From chilling cabin elegies to Bruce Springsteen sharing drinks with Alkaline Trio, there was a little something for everyone to enjoy. Trip hop giants and chamber pop poets returned, jazz and country legends joined forces, and a prince saw the light. We certainly witnessed our share of letdowns but pleasant surprises surfaced out of the blue to counteract any sense of disappointment. Have a listen for yourselves if you don't believe us. Without further ado, we humbly present to you the cream of this year's sonic crop.



19. **Xavier Rudd** - *Dark Shades Of Blue*

Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Xavier Rudd gets heavy on *Dark Shades Of Blue*. Completely electric, Rudd's latest is a work predicated on texture. The tracks feel more realized and moodier here as screaming guitars and thunderous percussion keep the compositions grounded in addition to enhancing their dynamic aspects. Some may call this an aim for aural maturity.

However, those who have seen Rudd in concert are well aware of the sound he's long been cultivating. It's entirely possible that the man has had this album in him for years now.

Regardless of the minutiae concerning its creation, *Dark Shades* treads new ground while remaining as rewarding as any of Rudd's past material – *Vinh Cao*

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Even a casual examination of the second and last set of Alchemy volumes reveals a disturbing lack of authenticity in the installment.