

SEARCH BLOG

FLAG BLOG

FOLLOW BLOG

Next Blog»sal1mineo@hotmail

# POPSURFING.COM

SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE  
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006

## "New Yorker" Gets Rough With Diamond

Not really, actually. But I liked saying "diamond" and "rough" in the headline. The New Yorker has really improved in the last few years under editor David Remnick. It doesn't feel desperately timely as in the Tina Brown years. Like the New Yorker of old, you can pick up an issue that is months old and not feel you're wasting your time. Still, timeliness is useful when it comes to reviewing movies and books and theater. And CDs.

Oddly, they run a [review of Neil Diamond's marvelous new album "12 Songs."](#) It came out November 8th (ages ago when you're talking about a weekly magazine). The CD made tons of news for being produced by Rick Rubin, for being very good and -- unfortunately -- for being one of the Sony releases saddled with "security" software that exposed listeners who wanted to legally rip it to lots of complications. The album started strongly and then collapsed amid all the bad publicity.

So it's wonderful the New Yorker is shining a light on his music, but surely they might have acknowledged somewhere the events of the past few months. The article reads as if it were filed in October 2005 and that ain't a good thing.

Other problems: the article wheels out the old canard that Neil Diamond has been dismissed for many years. He's hardly Barry Manilow, who was praised and then ignored and then somewhat rehabilitated. Diamond has always been recognized as a terrific songwriter, one of the last in the Brill Building tradition. He's rarely been out of the limelight (even if his new music hasn't made the charts) and barely a year goes by when he isn't profiled by some major publication as if they've just "rediscovered" him.

Then the reviewer talks about his lyrics being far inferior to his melodies -- fair enough; everyone else has been saying it for years.

FAVORITE LINKS

[Americablog](#)

[Five O'Clock Lightning baseball blog](#)

[Deep Pop -- Lori Lakin's Blog](#)

[The Back Page -- Jason Page on ESPN Radio](#)

[Cine-Blog -- George Robinson's Blog](#)

[Documents On Art & Cinema - Daryl Chin's Blog](#)

[Brucie G's Wondrous Blog Of Adventure and Mystery -- Bruce Greenspan's Blog](#)



---

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ [2009 \(17\)](#)

▼ [July \(3\)](#)

[1939 -- The Greatest Year For Movies](#)

[Swimming Bans Those Hi-Tech Suits!](#)

[Best Movies Of The Year -- The Master List](#)

▶ [June \(3\)](#)

▶ [May \(1\)](#)

▶ [March \(2\)](#)

▶ [February \(1\)](#)

▶ [January \(7\)](#)

▶ [2008 \(86\)](#)

▶ [2007 \(781\)](#)

▶ [2006 \(2412\)](#)

▶ [2005 \(5\)](#)



---

CONTRIBUTORS

[Aaron](#)

[Michael in New York](#)

