

It's usually involved him turfing me out of my office to wander the corridors of The Blue Fin Building like a homeless wretch while he puts his feet up on my desk and chats windily to the likes of **Michael Stipe, Nick Cave, Kurt Wagner, Kim Deal** and **Billy Bragg**, but Michael's been doing a lot of good work recently putting together Uncut's 2008 Album Preview.

By his expert account, there are a lot of good albums on their way as the New Year looms, from the above and also **Oasis, The Cure, Primal Scream, Flaming Lips, The Raconteurs, Hot Chip, Franz Ferdinand** and **John Cale**.

There's one album I don't think is on Michael's list that I've been listening to over the weekend that I'd like to flag up, because it's brilliant. It's a record called *A Wretched Sinner's Song*, and it's the forthcoming new album by **Songdog**.

Regular and longstanding Uncut readers may be familiar with them via the tracks we've featured over the years from their albums to date – *The Way Of The World*, *Haiku* and *The Time Of Summer Lightning* – including "Days Of Armageddon", which **Bruce Springsteen** picked up on from a batch of Uncut covermounts he asked us to send him, and which he's since played regularly before his concerts. You may remember also the terrific version they recorded exclusively for Uncut of "Janie Jones" for our **Clash** tribute CDs a few years ago, a track that became a favourite of Jonathan Ross, who gave it extensive airplay on his Radio 2 show.

Briefly, **Songdog** are a trio featuring Karl Woodward and Dave Paterson on guitars, keyboards, harmonica, banjo, mandolin, accordion, drums and tablas and former playwright Lyndon Morgans on vocals and guitar. Their music is dark and sinister and beautiful and Lyndon's songs are by turns sexy, scary, funny, creepy, heartbreaking and usually always brilliant.

A Wretched Sinner's Song is their most ambitious album so far, the basic trio augmented here by violin, cello, French horn and double bass. Typically, Lyndon's songs are about love, sex, tattoos, lynch-mobs, infidelity, owls, revenge, the devil, drugs, despair, transcendence, talking crows and Porthcawl Beach.

It's out on January 21 on *One Little Indian*, and while there's every unfortunate chance that it'll be overshadowed by some of the so-called Big Name releases, it won't be outshone by any of them.

Keep an ear out for it.

Allan Jones
Editor, Uncut