

THE BEST DAMN RECORD CLUB

OCTOBER 2025

VMP



GELLI HAHA

COVER PHOTO BY SOPHIE PRETTYMAN BEAUCHAMP

VMP

BEST DAMN COCKTAIL OCTOBER 2025

COMEBACK MANHATTAN



ILLUSTRATION BY @AMUSEDMARIO

You weathered the storm. Let's put to bed the empty promises and ghosted shipments from the old regime. It's time for the needle to drop on a new groove. *The Best Damn Record Club* has returned. Fueled by the ritual. A return to the slow life. Tearing open that record mailer, placing the stylus, and letting the music hit soul-deep. October 2025 marks the triumphant return with exclusive pressings of Gelli Haha's *Switcheroo* and Gunnar's *Sunfaded*. So let's raise a glass with the Best Damn Cocktail (this month). The Comeback Manhattan. This ain't a Don Draper two finger pour. It's a drink that's meant to help you forget about your troubles and prepare yourself for the joy that is about to come. Raid your liquor cabinet and let's go.

Preparation

Chill a coupe glass in the freezer for 10 minutes.

In a mixing glass, combine the rye, sweet vermouth, Amaro Nonino, and bitters.

Fill the mixing glass with ice and stir smoothly for 25-30 seconds.

Strain into the chilled coupe glass.

Express an orange peel over a lit match to flame it, releasing caramelized oils, then drop it into the drink.

Garnish with a brandied cherry, skewered dramatically on a cocktail pick.

Dust a pinch of edible gold dust over the surface for a shimmering nod to the triumphant return of The Best Damn Record Club.

Ingredients

2 oz high-proof rye whiskey
WHISTLEPIG PIGGYBACK 6 YEAR

3/4 oz sweet vermouth,
COCCHI VERMOUTH DI TORINO

1/4 oz Amaro Nonino

2 dashes Angostura bitters

1 dash cinnamon bitters (optional,
but ideal)

GARNISH
Brandied cherry and a flamed
orange peel

OPTIONAL
A pinch of edible gold dust***

*** WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH & A PHOENIX CAN'T RISE UNTIL EVERYTHING'S BURN'T TO THE FUCKING GROUND. CHEERS TO NEW "OLD SHIT"

DAMN.

VMP IS NOW OFFLINE

Signing Off.

Something went terribly wrong. A service that everyone loved; that everyone respected went rogue and lost the plot. As members you're fully aware of the false promises, missing records, and missing \$\$\$.

When we acquired VMP in June of this year, we knew that members were "fucking pissed." So were we. Because even before we had the opportunity to own VMP, we were members too. We didn't just want our damn records, we wanted more VMP. But the good VMP... You know, the one from 5 years ago. The bad ass titles. The catalog of gems that we devoted entire shelves to. The careful tearing open of a new box that arrived at our doorstep. The drop of the needle. Sitting down with the perfect manhattan in your hand. Your phone in the other room. Those were the moments that VMP gave us in its best years.

Starting today, VMP is offline. We now operate via a mail order catalog on a phone number. (OK, you can text it.) Our phone number is (314) 300-9979. Just text "VMP" to do all the things. And while we can't get your \$\$\$ back (sorry, it's really gone, we checked), we do have a "claims" process to help you recover what you can. We are shipping as many of the missing albums as possible, starting with this shipment. It's not everything, but it's a meaningful start to leaving the fuckery behind.

Starting now, the best damn record club is returning to its roots: producing the best damn record every month. The record will be exclusive. Mastered for vinyl by the best engineers. With bonus material such as extra tracks, custom artwork, or something bespoke to make the experience really special.

Why did we acquire VMP? To slow down. To appreciate something real. One of the last few things in life that isn't selected by a goddamn algorithm and spoon fed to us through Discover Weekly. We made a decision to stand up to whatever music has become on the internet. Music is made by humans. Performed by humans. For the enjoyment by other humans. We love a good playlist, but an album? An album just hits different. The artist carefully selected the recordings to make up a body of work. An album on vinyl is felt, not just heard. It's the experience of feeling the music that matter to us. Both figuratively and literally. We want to touch the music as much as we want the music to touch us.

For October 2025, AKA "The Return of VMP's Best Damn Record," we are super excited to be working with Gelli Haha and her amazing team at Innovative Leisure to press Gelli's debut album, *Switcheroo*. Records ship in October.

Thanks for being a member of The Best Damn Club out there.

Long live vinyl.

Nick Alt
Emily Muhoberac

Nick Alt & Emily Muhoberac

FUCK THE INTERNET

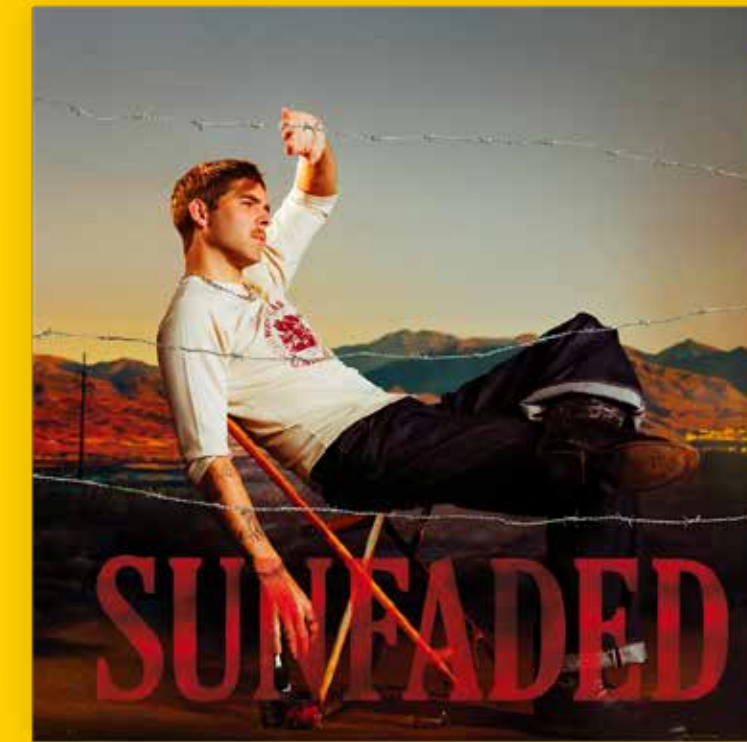
TEXT "VMP" TO START

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VMP

(314) 300-9979



#676997 SWITCHEROO GELLI HAHA	#851272 SWITCHEROO GELLI HAHA	MEMBERS ONLY
PISS YELLOW 180G	BLACK 180G	

#684760 SUNFADED GUNNAR	#893581 SUNFADED GUNNAR	LIMIT ONE PER MEMBER
SUNBURST 150 AVAILABLE	BLACK 100 AVAILABLE	



#535512
WHERE YOU WANT TO BE
TAKING BACK SUNDAY



#875162
THE HALL OF GAME
E40



#098674
KAMAAL THE ABSTRACT
Q-TIP



#278299
THE DIARY
J DILLA



#959163
THE CENTER WON'T HOLD
SLEATER-KINNEY



#058997
I'M WIDE AWAKE, IT'S MORNING
BRIGHT EYES



#634285
COAT OF MANY COLORS
DOLLY PARTON



#337776
VICTIM OF LOVE
CHARLES BRADLEY



#516189
VECKATIMEST
GRIZZLY BEAR



#132194
CELEBRATION ROCK
JAPANDROIDS



#365525
THE LEMON OF PINK
THE BOOKS



#986241
IT'S DARK AND HELL IS HOT
DMX



#143066
OCEAN FRONT PROPERTY
GEORGE STRAIT



#630431
FOR MY BROKEN HEART
REBA MCENTIRE



#829325
THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF LORD QUAS
QUASIMOTO



#981994
GENOCIDE & JUICE
THE COUP



#189308
WE ARE BEAUTIFUL WE ARE DOOMED
LOS CAMPESINOS!



#201869
SEXTANT
HERBIE HANCOCK



#823328
JAILBREAK
THIN LIZZY



#447465
PHASES & STAGES
WILLIE NELSON



#050902
BITTE ORCA
DIRTY PROJECTORS



#455091
THE HISSING OF SUMMER LAWNS
JONI MITCHELL



#580011
BACK TO BACK
THE MAR-KEYS/BOOKER T & THE MG'S



#445231
THE SHAPE OF JAZZ TO COME
ORNETTE COLEMAN



#072962
THE LONESOME CROWDED WEST
MODEST MOUSE



#730346
SILVERBULLETS
SILVERTONES



#394484
REJUVENATION
THE METERS



#191655
NOW
ARETHA FRANKLIN



#327031
PUSSY CATS
HARRY NILSSON



#968526
BLACK MOUNTAIN
BLACK MOUNTAIN



#568949
LEA IN LOVE
BARBARA LEA



#501416
TALKING TO THE PEOPLE
BLACK NASTY



#596053
PSYCHIC SPASMS
NEON INDIAN



#564404
DO OR DIE
DROPKICK MURPHYS



#603832
WALK RIGHT IN
GUS CANNON



#485763
EL MALO
WILLIE COLON



#660553
SONIDOS ENCONTRADOS
JOE BATAAN



#225889
HOOTENANNY
THE REPLACEMENTS



#970032
STAR PEOPLE
MILES DAVIS



#805421
ETERNITY
ALICE COLTRANE

MEMBERS CAN "SWAP" OR "ADD" BY TEXTING VMP TO (314) 300-9979. NEWBIES CAN "JOIN"

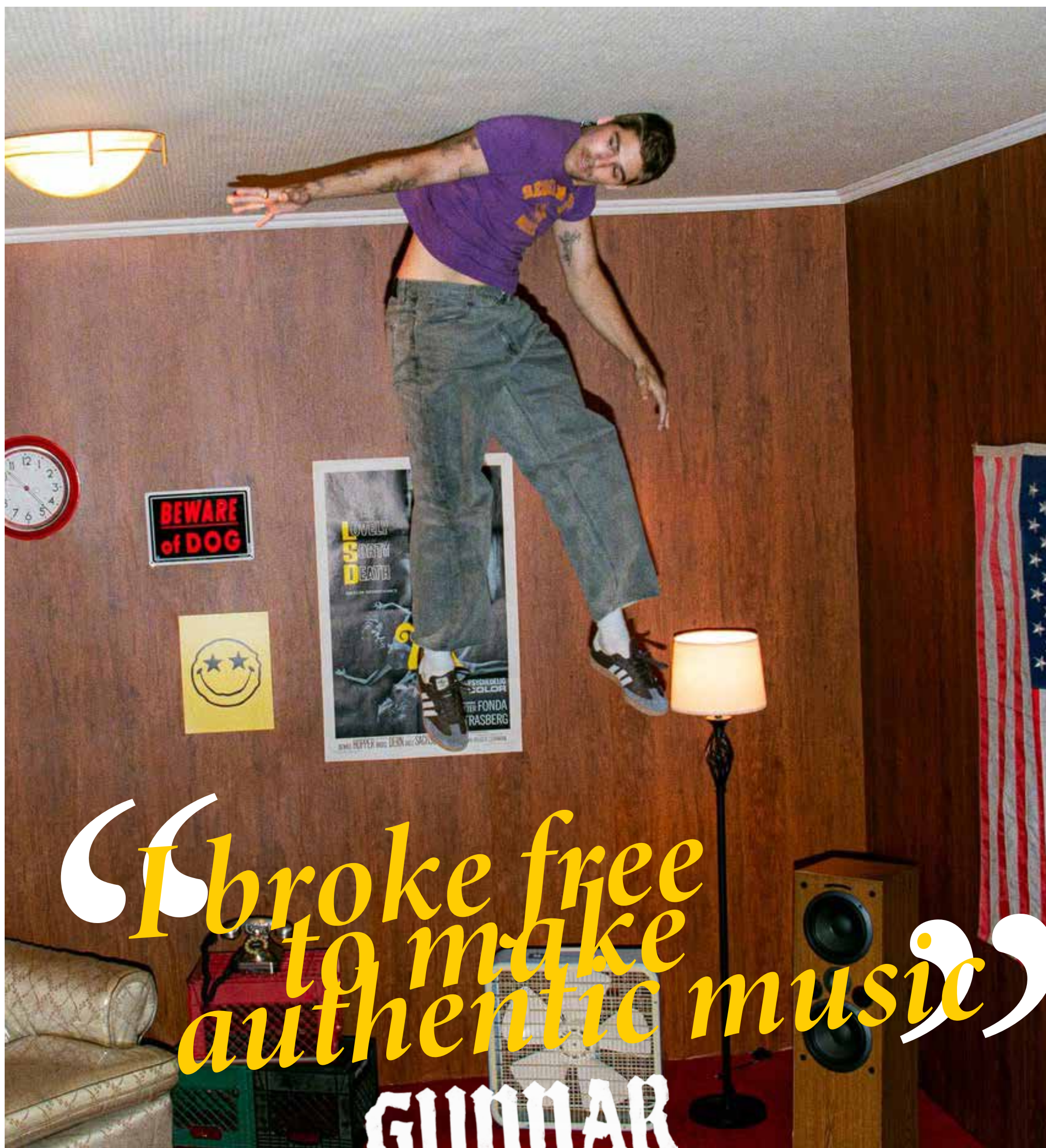
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SUNFADED

GUNNAR


VMP FIRST LOOK OCTOBER 2025

PHOTOGRAPHY BY @YOUNGASTRONAUT




“I broke free to make authentic music”

GUNNAR



#684760
SUNFADED
GUNNAR

SUNBURST
EDITION - 150



#893581
SUNFADED
GUNNAR

BLACK 180G
EDITION - 100

Los Angeles alt-rockers GUNNAR has carved a path through the music industry with relentless reinvention, and at 23, he's delivering his boldest work yet with SUNFADED, our VMP First Look feature. This deeply personal album, out now, is available in two exclusive vinyl editions: 100 copies on 180g black vinyl and 150 copies in a striking Orange Sunburst colorway. Each pressing includes a special NFC chip, scannable via smartphone, unlocking exclusive hidden content from GUNNAR himself—a unique window into his creative world.

SUNFADED boasts a nine tracks blend of alt-rock grit with pop-punk nostalgia and introspective lyricism, drawing from influences like Arctic Monkeys, Bon Iver, and early 2000s emo. For GUNNAR, who lost his home in the January 2025 California wildfires, this album is more than music—it's a testament to resilience. "This record is a reckoning," he told VMP. "It's about rolling with the punches and finding beauty in survival."

GUNNAR's journey to SUNFADED has been one of defiance and authenticity. Starting with garage jam sessions and Instagram covers that built a loyal fanbase, he was swept into the pop music machine as a teenager. But the mold

didn't fit. "I was forced to make pop music for years," he says. "When I broke free, I wanted to make something real—music that's true to me." That rebellion shaped his 2023 debut *Best Mistake* and fueled tours with JXDN and Maroon 5, but SUNFADED marks his arrival as an artist fully in command.

The album balances high-energy rock anthems with raw, intimate moments. Lead track "The Art of Staying Alive," written before the wildfires, became a lifeline post-disaster. "It's about taking it on the chin," GUNNAR explains. "That song carried me through." Equally poignant is "You Changed Me," a deeply personal reflection on his relationship with his father—a topic he's never explored in music before. "I got to dive deep and get honest in a way I hadn't before," he says.

For GUNNAR, the stage is where his music lives. "Live shows are my bread and butter," he says. "It's where I'm the best version of myself." With SUNFADED, he's fused his live-rock energy with pop sensibilities, crafting songs that soar in a venue yet feel at home on vinyl. As he prepares for his first-ever headline tour, kicking off October 9 in Chicago and closing in Los Angeles on October 29, he's eager to

let the album breathe. "I want to build a show that showcases who I am from start to finish," he says.

VMP's exclusive pressings elevate the SUNFADED experience. The 180g black vinyl offers timeless warmth, while the Orange Sunburst edition mirrors the album's fiery spirit. The NFC chip in each record unlocks exclusive content—think behind-the-scenes insights, personal notes from GUNNAR, or even unreleased demos, making these pressings a collector's dream.

When asked what he hopes listeners take from SUNFADED, GUNNAR keeps it simple: "Authenticity. I want people to hear this and know it's me—my heart, my bones." Looking ahead, he's open to new horizons, even hinting at a future country album. "I love the simplicity of it—singing about drinking and sitting in a truck," he laughs. But for now, SUNFADED is GUNNAR at his most vivid, a record that demands to be spun and experienced live.

Grab your exclusive VMP pressing of SUNFADED and scan the NFC chip to unlock GUNNAR's world. Stream the album now and catch him on tour to witness an artist who believes a single night can change everything.

VMP BEST DAMN RECORD OCTOBER 2025



SWITCHEROO

GELLI HAHA

For vinyl collectors who live for that first-press thrill, Gelli Haha's debut album *Switcheroo* is about to become your next obsession. Dropping as *The Best Damn Record* for October, and the official return of VMP. Together with Innovative Leisure and pressed exclusively by Vinyl Me, Please (VMP), this remastered hi-fi edition on limited "Piss Yellow" vinyl is a must-have for crate-diggers. With a never-before-heard bonus track and custom gatefold artwork designed by Haha herself, this release is poised to skyrocket in value as the Boise-born artist—aka Angel Abaya—explodes from indie darling to pop provocateur. Here's why we fucking love this album.

Gelli Haha, a self-styled "sonic acrobat," has crafted a 10-track carnivalesque synth-pop odyssey with *Switcheroo*, recorded using vintage gear like the Eventide Harmonizer and MXR Pitch Transposer for a deliciously analog, slightly warped vibe. Co-produced with De Lux's Sean Guerin, the album blends Studio 54 swagger with Area 51 weirdness—think bouncy synths, punky edge, and a world called the Gelliverse. Tracks like the perky "Funny Music" (with its cheeky "BONK!" finale) and the tequila-fueled

"Piss Artist" ooze playful chaos, while "Dynamite" spins a bear-attack tale and "Pluto is not a planet it's a restaurant" closes with haunting whispers over pulsing beats. Pitchfork called it a "big top of stoned revelation and gross-out humor," Paste praised its "heart and surprises," and *Bandcamp Daily* dubbed it a "synth-pop worldbuilding experiment." X posts and r/indieheads threads are already buzzing, predicting year-end list domination.

What sets this VMP pressing apart? First, it's remastered specifically for vinyl hi-fi, ensuring every quirky vocal leap (some recorded mid-jump) and mouth-sound drum fill pops with crystalline warmth. The piss yellow vinyl—limited to an undisclosed run—screams collectible, perfectly matching Haha's vibrant, primary-color aesthetic. Then there's the two exclusive bonus tracks, a remix of "Bounce House" and a version of "Tiramisu" that is absolutely delicious. The real showstopper, though, is the custom gatefold artwork, hand-drawn by Haha herself. Known for her cartoonish, surreal style, she's created a fold-out visual of the Gelliverse—a kaleidoscope of dolphin balloons, red rave scenes, and trippy motifs that

make this LP a display piece as much as a listening experience.

Gelli's sold-out LA Resident show and KCRW Freaks Only spins signal she's on the verge of breaking big, with Japanese import shops already hyping *Switcheroo* as a "breakout debut." Collectors know the math: VMP exclusives, especially for buzzworthy artists on labels like Innovative Leisure (Allah-Las, Nite Jewel), vanish fast and fetch premiums later. The analog roots of *Switcheroo*—its warm, flawed textures—make it a vinyl dream, whether you're blasting the party-ready "Tiramisu" or sinking into the Play-Doh-soft synths of "Normalize."

In a digital age, *Switcheroo* is a tactile triumph, and VMP's hi-fi pressing with its bonus track and Gelli's gatefold art elevates it to collector catnip. Don't sleep on this one—grab it before the reissues hit or the hype sends prices soaring. Your turntable and your bragging rights depend on it.

This record presents several sonic challenges, extremes in high and low frequency detail like this are often difficult to cut. Most would dull the recording and neuter the bass in order to make the cut easier and cheaper.



PRODUCTION NOTES

LABEL
INNOVATIVE
LEISURE

OG RELEASE
2025

RELEASE TYPE
DEBUT
VMP EXCLUSIVE

FORMAT
1 LP

SPEED
33 1/3 RPM

VINYL SIZE
12 INCH

WEIGHT
180 GRAM

COLORWAYS
YELLOW #676997
BLACK #851272

JACKET
GATEFOLD; SINGLE POCKET

EXCLUSIVE BONUS
GELLIVERSE SCENTED
SCRATCH-N-SNIFF STICKERS

MASTERED BY
SCOTT HULL @MASTERDISK

"THIS CUT, USING MASTERDISK'S SUPERIOR NEUMANN VMS82 LACQUER CUTTING LATHE COUPLED WITH OVER 40 YEARS OF MASTERING AND DISK CUTTING EXPERIENCE GIVE THIS RECORD THE EXTREMES IN COLOR AND SPOT LIGHT IT DESERVES.

IN A FASTER AND CHEAPER WORLD MY CUTTING PROCESS IS 'SLOW AND METHODOICAL' WHERE THE SONG AND SPIRIT OF THE PROJECT ALWAYS WINS.

VMP'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE ALIGNS PERFECTLY WITH MY LOVE OF VINYL AND MUSIC ENGINEERING." —SCOTT



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