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# 100 BANDS YOU NEED TO KNOW IN '07

READ UP NOW TO ROCK OUT LATER

#225.1  
APRIL 2007



## TED LEO/ PHARMACISTS ★★★★★ *Living With The Living*

Leo & Co. still hate the war,  
love big rock.



Ah, the  
difficult  
fourth  
album.  
Pharmacist  
Ted Leo,

drummer Chris Wilson and bassist Dave Lerner continue the drive for a pop that is ultimately punk. Informed by melodic Brit outfits like the Jam and Stiff Little Fingers, *Living With The Living* takes steps back to New Jersey, with the sort of big rock 'n' roll, free of subcultural claim, that'd make the Boss proud ("Army Bound," "The World Stops Turning"). *Living's* most memorable moments, however, come when the band break from the standard format. "The Unwanted Things" nods to early reggae (invoking Foregone Conclusion's "Equality Street"), while the frenzied, Thin Lizzy-esque "The Sons Of Cain" demands repeat plays and sing-alongs. From the massive "Annunciation Day/Born On Christmas Day" (think an electrified Pogues), to the acoustic nostalgia of "A Bottle Of Buckie" and the infectious tell-all of "C.I.A." ("Only you know what you've done," sings Leo), the Pharmacist camp remains in fine form. **(TOUCH AND GO; tgrec.com) Mike McKee**



TED LEO/  
PHARMACISTS  
*LIVING WITH THE  
LIVING*  
(TOUCH AND GO; tgrec.com)

Not gonna lie: I was gonna pick Lily Allen this month, too, but Leslie menacingly shook her fist at me when I mentioned it, so I went for Allen's perfect male counterpart: Ted "The Motherfucking Man" Leo. Sure, they might be a decade or so apart, age-wise (and, uh, Ted's married), but with Leo bringing another record filled with equal amounts ska, dub, punk and pop to the table, a co-headlining tour couldn't be that far off—in my dreams, at least. Goddamn, this guy's the best. **[SH]**  
FAVORITE SONG: "The Sons Of Cain"