

## Dangerous- Michael Jackson (Sony)

By Kirby Ferguson

Okay, we all had a copy of THRILLER when we were twelve, right? It was the musical Rubik's Cube. We've since become huge, huge, huge Michael Jackson fans, but he's been dismissed as kid's stuff -and he is-, but, wow, what kid's stuff! Personally, I feel sorry for Michael because he's a scapegoat, undeservedly stuck in the company of no-talents like the New Kids and Vanilla Ice. Besides this, he is also the victim of abuse by millions of homophobes. But back to the subject, Michael became huge for a reason: he's immensely talented, but like many rock & roll geniuses, he's a nut. After many, many moons the not-so-prolific one has released his fourth album in fourteen years (!), DANGEROUS. Michael's first two albums, OFF THE WALL and THRILLER, are pop masterpieces of joy, innocence, singing and song. However, since then he's been embalming his good ol' singin' and dancing (though not as good as it used to be) in lame-brained sincerity ("Man In the Mirror") and amazingly misguided self-assertion ("Bad"). DANGEROUS continues the trend set by BAD, but like that album is ultimately redeemed by the genius of its creator.

In his little world of monkeys and mega-bucks, Jackson relies on television and top forty radio to promote his ideas, unlike in the past, where he set the rules rather than followed them. This essentially bad taste in influences is painfully evident in the melodramatic pathetic lover-man jive, unconvincing (to say the least) politics and white bread raps of DANGEROUS. Getting past Michael's adolescent pretensions is a task in itself: furrow your brow as Michael dubiously states "I'm only human"; laugh at the impossible seduction scene described in "Dangerous"; lunge for the "skip/track" button as Michael strives into brand-new-absolutely-never-touched-before territory in "Heal the World" (ugh). All through the album Jackson is trying to seem human, yet the more he opens up, the more fucked up he seems (as we all saw in the original "Black or White" video). Besides the lyrics that rouse goose-bumps for all the wrong reasons, there's tedious touches filling DANGEROUS, like the choral intro to "Will You Be There," the pointless little routine at the start of "Black or White" and the kiddies giving us their wisdom at the beginning of "Heal the World". The calculation of BAD has returned: once again he employs a hot guitarist (this time Slash), litters the album with contemporary sounds and basically breaks his back

