

music reviews

The Boys on the Side Soundtrack

Various artists
(Arista)

In many movie soundtracks there are some very good songs and the remainder of the album is filled out with songs that were cut from the movie, or with orchestral background music. *The Boys on the Side Soundtrack* has a solid set of great music by such diverse artists as Bonnie Raitt, The Indigo Girls, and The Cranberries. Many of the songs are new, but some-- like Annie Lennox's "Why"-- will be familiar to many.

I like this soundtrack because the selection accurately portrays the movie. Each of the songs calls to mind a scene or feeling from the movie itself. Since there is also a large variety of musical styles, dislike of a single genre, such as country, will not keep you from enjoying the entire selection.

My one complaint is that the song "You Got It" is featured three times. I acknowledge the fact that two of these versions are radically different from each other, and each are essential to the whole. One version of Whoopie Goldberg singing the song and one of Bonnie Raitt would have been enough. However much I like the song, I do not want to hear Ms. Raitt sing it twice on one album. I find it difficult to believe that the producers could not find something else to put on the album in place of the third version.

Overall, this soundtrack is highly listenable. I have been listening to it constantly over the last three days and I still enjoy it as much as the first time. If you liked the movie, or even if you would just like a great collection of female artists try *Boys on the Side*.

(4)

-- A. Chisholm

Four Seasons The Dance Album (Curb)

This album is actually a re-release of a 1993 disc of dance remixes. Fresh on the heels of the surprising Top 40 success of the dance version of "December 1963 (Oh What A Night)", this is to be expected.

Several of the tracks seem to have been written to become dance songs, and flourish in their updated forms. Others, such as "Book of Love", fail miserably. With many of the album's nine tracks running over six minutes each, it also comes across as somewhat bloated and overdone.

If you went crazy for the remixed "December 1963", this disc just might be for you. For the mildly curious, I recommend that you save your money.

(3)

Slash's Snakepit It's Five O'clock Somewhere (Geffen/MCA)

Some rumour mongers are calling this the album that will signal the end of Guns'N'Roses. I have my doubts, even though it does prove that GNR guitarist Slash is both a better songwriter and vocalist than Axl Rose. There is nothing profound to be heard here, just simple rock with better than average guitar work. The sound is best described as Guns'N'Roses without Axl's annoying oversampled vocals or pointless "shock value only" lyrics. Slash's Snakepit is a fine alternative for anyone who is bored with replaying those bloated *Use Your Illusion* albums.

(3.5)

Portishead Dummy (Go! Discs/London)

This highly original release features some of the most unusual music I have heard in a dogs age. Its slow, dance-like rhythms are punctuated by quirky, off beat keyboards and guitars. Vocalist and songwriter Beth Gibbons uses her angelic voice to create a mood that is both fully relaxing and infinitely depressing. I can not help thinking of Portishead's sound as the dance music of the damned.

Perfect background music for reading or studying, but not the kind of thing you want to bring to a party, unless its a seance.

(4)

Lazy Some Assembly Required (Roadrunner/Attic)

This release is not very satisfying. Although the instruments are reasonably well played, Lazy were too lazy to write any decent songs. Their attempts to use sledgehammer guitar noise to cover the ineptitude of their cutie-pie pop tunes fail miserably. Each vocalist has his or her own distinct out-of-tune wail to further ruin the listening experience. Lazy's Cub-meets-the-Sex-Pistols sound simply does not work.

(2.5)

Elastica Stutter (DGC/MCA)

With this E.P. release, Elastica deliver some very basic modern punk. The guitars are loud and sloppy, the lyrics are simplistic and often indecipherable, and each song screams anger. The perfect punk package. With song titles like "Rockunroll", profound statements are not to be found on this disc. However, the music does have a few good hooks, so if you like fast and heavy music, then this just might be for you.

(3.5)

Horoscopes



PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Lightning will strike you twice this week. But look on the bright side...you won't need to turn the radio on to hear music anymore, and you won't need that home perm either.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Money is in your future, but unfortunately, you will be losing it and not making it. Well, at least you aren't getting struck by lightning.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20)

You will try to get something out of one of the vending machines on campus, but the item will not fall out and you will be out of a dollar and left starving for the rest of the day.

GEMINI (May 21 - Jun 20)

Do whatever you want this week because you are small and insignificant in the universe and life does go on. But remember...murder is a federal offense.

CANCER (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

You will notice that the person you have noticed since the beginning of the year will finally notice you, but you will also notice that someone else you noticed has noticed you too. Get it?

LEO (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

On your next trip to the library, the scanner will go off at the exit doors, making a total hassle out of your life. So, stop stealing the books you klepto.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Be as social as you can for the next week because there is someone special waiting for you just around the corner. And I mean that literally.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

You are destined to buy an expensive shirt. Wear it to a smoke-filled bar somewhere downtown, get totally loaded and puke all over it.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Find a bottle (be it a vodka bottle or a ketchup bottle), wherever you are, put it on the ground and spin it around. Whoever it points to is your soul mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will go to class without your pass-assignment done and that "dog ate my homework" routine will actually work this time. But, I could be wrong.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

There is a big social event in your future. You will meet someone and get VERY friendly. Be sure to buy some cream or something for any rashes that may develop.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You are going to make a total fool out of yourself in a crowded public place. Don't worry though, those people are laughing with you, not at you. Trust me.