

REVIEWS AND SPEWS - CD REVIEWS

Modus Operandi

Photek
Virgin

Modus Operandi is a collection of ambient and breakbeat in its early form, not that that's a bad thing. It's just boring. Really, *really* boring.

However, Photek are undoubtedly one of the best in their chosen musical category and *Modus Operandi* is well-produced. Tracks like "Aleph 1", "Axiom" and "Smoke Rings" will get sampled to death soon enough and will set a standard for future groups in the same category, but for now they're not going to go very far. In fact, I doubt they'll go anywhere at all. The same goes for the title track. After listening to it, one would assume that Photek's

"modus operandi" involves sleep and little else. "124" is easily the best track on the CD but it's as forgettable as the rest.

You need drugs to listen to this album and I doubt that pot will do the trick. Somebody's marketing department should think about including a little bag of something or other with the CD to boost sales. You need uppers. Loads of 'em.

EUGENIA BAYADA

Forever

Bobby Brown
MCA Records Canada

Bobby Brown. We all remember him, don't we? Whitney Houston's husband, member of New Edition, and one of the bad boys of music today due

to his skirmishes with the law.

Thus far, and I emphasize *thus far*, Bobby's had a very successful solo career, what with such hits as "My Prerogative", "Every Little Step", and "Humpin' Around".

This album wasn't released with much fanfare, and it's no wonder why. The production on this disc is adequate at best, and it barely reaches that. The most that might get squeezed out of this album is a flavour of the day.

Don't get me wrong here. I like Bobby Brown, and I really tried to like this album. The major disappointment of this CD is that the vocals are basically sub-par, and can often be annoying. Only rarely do we get flashes of the old Bobby we remember from songs like "On Our Own" off the

Ghostbusters II soundtrack.

It's not that Bobby Brown hasn't tried hard enough with this album, or that he purposely wanted to disappoint his fans, or even that the CD cover was lame. It's just that, basically, this album sucks. The raps suck, the vocals suck, the production sucks. Everything about this CD sucks.

That being said, this disc will still get quite a bit of use out of me, especially in the summertime when I need a frisbee. So, I guess that this album doesn't suck as bad as it could.

Overall, if you're in the market to buy somebody an expensive coaster, my recommendation is Bobby Brown's *Forever*. You can't go wrong with premium plastic!

ASHIR SIDDIQUI



Halifax

**FRIDAY, JAN. 23,
9PM, THE GRAWOOD
Simon B. Cotter.** The poster says that "He's funny. And he's back!" I don't remember him ever being here, and I have questions about where he went.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 24,
9PM, MACINNES
ROOM**

Just two sentences of obligatory press for **Holly McNarland**, who is headlining for **Weeping Tile** and **Sol**. Female rock invades Dalhousie — welcome to the mainstream.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 24,
THE BLUES CORNER
Gowan...yes, Gowan.** Honestly, he's still alive. The crooner of such Can-Rock faves like "Strange Animal" is attempting to "revive" his career.

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