

RECORDS

PLATTER CHATTER

Sobule nifty, without Sass



Jill Sobule
Things Are Different Here
MCA Records

by Peter Stathis

Jill Sobule has a new album. It's available in record stores. It's called *Things Here Are Different*, and I gotta tell ya, it's pretty nifty.

Sorta sounds like a Quebecois version of Adult Net. Jill's got a nice voicebox and her lyrics are bearable. Mindya, it doesn't take much effort when you're competing with other CanCon groups like Glass Tiger and Blvd. (But anyway, a compliment is a compliment).

And turning to production, who do we find at the controls but our old friend Todd "Dr. Utopia" Rundgren. So, yes the album does have that spacey, polished velvet finish. Jill and Todd's music reminds me of slouching in a glitzy nightclub, about 1:30 am, sultry saxophone rousing me in time for another cooler. It's the kind of music that goes well with a drink.

There's a good mix of up-tempo single material (drums etc). The rest of the songs are built around Jill's larynx and an organ line. Well anyway, to sum it up: it's a good package — overproduced, but not to the point of nausea.

Sass Jordan without the assault on human decency

Denmark Hardcore



President Fetch
Boston Tea Party Demo
Elixir Tapes

by Stephen Perry

This is some of the best hardcore to come out of the land of danishes. In fact, it may be the best thing to have come out of Denmark ever.

President Fetch crosses hardcore gusto with punk energy and comes out sounding like the Dead Kennedys doing early proletarian music with the singer from the Toy Dolls doing vocals. This is especially evident on songs like "What's the Matter Cowardy." All 20 songs

are very manic, often surpassing today's hardcore royalty.

I'm not sure whether this is a collection of basement tapes, or if it's the band's famed first demo, but, whatever it is, I'm glad it's out. The tape is worth it for the thrash version of "Amazing Grace" alone.

This is a necessary look back at yesteryear.

For more information, write Elixir Tapes, c/o Brett Tobias, 672 Precita, San Francisco, CA, USA, 94110.

Alternate pop you will Love



The Aquanettas
Love with the Proper Stranger
Nettwerk-Capitol-EMI

by Gary Verrinder

The Aquanettas are a four piece all female band that hail from New York City. They make a pleasant change from the usually noisy underground scene of NY. *Love with the Proper Stranger* is their first album for Vancouver based Nettwerk Productions.

The album starts off with a rockin' tune titled "Diplomat." This is one of those great pop songs that you just can't get out of your head; it has lyrics that will keep you singing for weeks.

Lead singer Deborah Schwartz' vocals are powerfully emotional. Throughout the album, she carries the band to great heights with a quirkiness that seem to be both soothing and irritating at the same time.

The next song, "Faults," has a slower pace. Jill Richmond's excellent guitar work keeps this song from putting you into sleep mode.

"Beach Party," the third song, brings the band back to life. It reminds me of something that could have been on the Velvet Underground's third album.

"Up" and "Connecting Line" reveal more of The Feelies influence. They are great pop songs, well worth the price of the album, that had me up and dancing around. Side one closes off with a quirky dance song titled "Footsteps." Bass player Claudine Troise shows that she can play magnificently, combining with the guitar, the two pull this song together.

Side two starts off with the title track, "Love with the Proper Stranger" is an excellent song about having undemanding relationships, with lyrics like "You got love with the perfect stranger. All that is required is that you are here."

"15 Men," the next song, makes me wish this album

came with a lyric sheet, because the vocals are hardly audible. "Lose My Mind" is a slow song that made me want to turn this album off.

The following song, "Pictures of Italy," is the best on the album, possibly the best of the year. This should be a hit. It reminds me of another all female band, Scrawl. With lyrics like, "All day I eat pasta," it could have been performed by The Feelies or They Might Be Giants.

Drummer Stephanie Seymour makes her presence felt on this one. Although the drumming is very simple, she makes it work very well, bringing the song together around the other three band members. "Pictures of Italy" is another

song you could end up singing for weeks.

"That Ain't Right" and "Black on Blonde" end the album with some great vocal and guitar work. Side two is the side I find myself coming back to time and time again, the side I can't take off my turntable.

Love with the Proper Stranger is an excellent piece of vinyl, worth adding to any one's collection. The Aquanettas are going to be an important force in rock and roll.

If you like pop music but are sick of the crap that always gets played on commercial stations in Toronto, *Love with the Proper Stranger* is for you. If you don't believe me, check them out live on June 4th at the Rivoli.

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2. Regret the resignation of professor Bob Wakabayashi, our program coordinator.
3. Appeal to the university administration to resolve this issue so that our program does not suffer further repercussions.

Signed:

Andrew Chan, Peter Taylor, Anthony...
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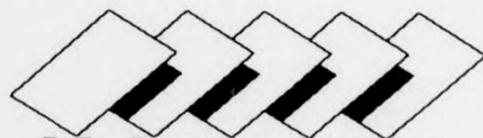
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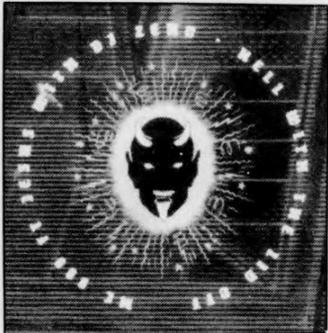


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Jesus puts out a Hell of a record



MC 900 Ft Jesus & DJ Zero
Hell With the Lid Off
Nettwerk Records

by Andrew Sun

If rap music was a baseball team, MC 900 Ft Jesus would be the flaky reliever who is always pulling gags — that is, if he was allowed on the team at all.

Frankly, MC 900 Ft Jesus and DJ Zero don't really fit in with standard hip hop. They are rap iconoclasts with more musical affinity to fellow Nettwerk label mates like Severed Heads and Skinny Puppy than, say, De La Soul. Their latest album, *Hell With the Lid Off*, mixes industrial, electro and turntables to invoke a devilish combination of cerebral dance music.

Call it rap music goes to art school.

Unlike the angry bravado of most rappers, MC 900 distorts his voice, whispers quietly and generally plays devil's advocate with our ears. He doesn't really rap, but recites words like a preacher speaking in tongues, only his tongue is firmly planted in his cheek.

The lyrics themselves draw on the surreal and the trivial, not to mention the nonsensical. With titles like Real Black Angel, I'm Going Straight to Heaven and A Greater God, this group indicates it knows full well the role of the trickster is more fun to play than the saviour.

Their sound is dense and somewhat mechanical at times, but never stiff. Before any song gets monotonous, something unexpected is mixed in to liven the track up.

This impious duo with a truly wacky name delivers parables by way of the *National Enquirer*. Absolutely quirky and absurd, this album is a lot of funky fun.