

Metz's *Electric Splash* fails to rekindle the spark

Electric Splash
Belinda Metz
Attic/A&M

review by Don Teplyske

Belinda Metz's second album *Electric Splash* is a study in the inconsistency often associated with 1980's rock 'n' roll. Recent albums by Frankie Goes To Hollywood, General Public and Sade rely on a few electrifying cuts to compensate for a majority of inconsequential sludge. *Electric Splash* fits comfortably into this category.

The music contained on *Electric Splash* is typical of that produced by females fronting faceless bands (Scandal, Lisa & Price, Terry Crawford). That is, liberal doses of guitar, fighting it out (quite unsuccessfully) with a competent vocalist.

The album's highlight is also its first single. "What About Me (Take Me As I Am)" deserves to be an AM radio standard; on the track, Metz displays a vocal style favourably similar in quality to Luba's.

I consider the song's greatest strength to be the quality which will lead to its failure as a single; "What About Me" is not immediately

catchy. And while this is appealing (as the song is able to grow on you) it has been proven over and over that hit singles have to weave themselves into listeners from the very first play. "What About Me" takes too long to sink its hooks into you.

The other noteworthy song on the album is "Subway Dances"; its appealing chorus ("Ododooday subway dances/ododooday subwayin' subwayin'/ododooday subway dances") redeems the song's otherwise flaccid arrangement.

The remainder of the album is comprised of the previously mentioned sludge.

The disappointment of *Electric Splash* is compounded when one recalls Metz's debut album of four years ago. That album promised big things from Belinda with the Benetar-y sound of "Trouble At The End Of The Line" and "Bad Little Baby Boy".

A first album can be excused for having only two listenable songs; a second effort has to show some progression - even if only four interesting songs.

Electric Splash, unfortunately, does nothing to rekindle the spark fired by Belinda Metz's debut.



Belinda Metz: a vocal style similar to Luba

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