

# FOR THE RECORD

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### Paquette releases CD

Paquette from Page 6

with her self-constructed constraints at times, like when she sings, "It's the Same Old Story, Same Old Lines." She knows she's reached the end of the line, but is unable to move through the symbols of the genre into novelty.

There is something sad and defeated in the success of some of these songs: They signal ritual without the release of emotion that conveys transformation, and there is a Disneyland quality to the recording that's hard to shake.

The real tragedy of the CD is its near success. We want to believe Paquette because she plays the right part and sings the familiar stories with a strong voice. But these stories don't have enough blood in them and lack the imperfect details of real life.

Will Paquette be able to transcend these tired clichés and find her own voice? Only time will tell.

By Julie A. Moser  
Spotlight reviewer

### Weird Al Yankovic RUNNING WITH SCISSORS

It's been quite some time since Weird Al's last album, but it's been well worth the wait.

"Running with Scissors" is an eclectic album, full of parodies of many popular songs, as always, along with a few Weird Al originals and the traditional polka medley.

As an ardent fan, I rushed out to buy it as soon as I could and for days I listened to nothing else. It's the kind of album that you never get tired of listening to because you may not catch all the funny phrases the first time through. But then, that describes all of his albums.

"The Saga Begins," the first track, is a parody of "American Pie" by Don Mclean, and it tells the entire story of the first episode of Star Wars that was recently released. It's quite a catchy tune, even though it's a bit long. It's amazing how Weird Al transforms such a classic song just by changing the lyrics. His ability to mimic songs is pure genius. And in addition, he has a knack for mimicking the music videos too.

One of my favorite songs is "Grapefruit Diet," set to the tune of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies song "Zoot Suit Riot." Once again, Al ventures into the world of the fat and hungry, giving us such phrases as "Who's real flabby? Yes I am," and "Getting tired of my big fat rear." It's one of those songs that gets you laughing right from the start.

Another interesting song is "Albuquerque," which takes an unusual approach. It's not so much a song but a tale of survival as a boy gains freedom by leaving home, where his mother stuffs him with sauerkraut every morning, and going to Albuquerque. Many adventures await him there, as well as some bad luck. It's classic Weird Al humor at its best. If you love his earlier work, you'll love this one too.

Of course, there are the usual parodies, and this time he goes all out and picks some real winners. "Jerry Springer" parodies the Barenaked Ladies tune "One Week," while "Pretty Fly for a Rabbi," mimics "Pretty Fly for a White Guy" by The Offspring.

Two of the songs on the album

sound close to other songs you might have heard before, but they aren't true parodies. "Germs" is much like a Nine Inch Nails song off of the Pretty Hate Machine album. And "Your Horoscope for Today" has Mighty Mighty Bostones written all over it. But there are points in each song where it goes on its own path, and though these songs may sound similar to pop hits, they aren't exact matches.

Lastly, there are the polkas. This time, Al comes up with a bunch of great tunes, set to fast polka music. Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls, Madonna, Matchbox 20, Semisonic and a lot more combine to make probably one of the best polka medleys Weird Al's created, though I am partial to the polka on his album, "Smells Like Nirvana."

If you haven't already heard, Weird Al will be performing at the Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom this Saturday. I know I can't wait to see him. I don't think words can express the excitement I feel about actually seeing Weird Al in concert. If the world ends, I won't care



Weird Al Yankovic

much because I will have seen Weird Al, in person. And who can think of anything better than that?

So if you're a fan, or just love to see unusual talent, I'd highly recommend attending the concert and also picking up his latest CD. You'll be missing out if you don't.

*Weird Al Yankovic plays the Hampton Beach Casino on Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$21.50 to \$36.50 and can be purchased by calling (603) 929-4100.*

By Kiana Minkle  
Spotlight reviewer