Eighth album from Oingo Boingo offers rain-dance images, refreshing sound

By Mark Bestul Staff Reporter

Oingo Boingo "Dark at the end of the Tunnel"

"Dark at the end of the Tunnel" brings an interesting sound from Oingo Boingo for their 1985 album, which included "Weird Science," the theme

track of the movie of the same name.
"Dark" starts off with "When the Lights go Out." This song combines a very primitive-sounding drumbeat with a grinding guitar, which makes for a rough sound. The vocals have a unique, repetitious, chanting quality to them.

'Skin' is the second song on the LP and probably is the best song on the record. It has a mysterious sense about it. The vocals are a mellow, low

harmony. The music behind the vocals is very simple and blends a laidback drumbeat with a xylophonesounding keyboard.

The song is about the armor that people wear so that others can't tell what they really are like: "If you pull



away the skin, is there anybody there?"

Another song that captures an innovative sound is "Run Away (The Escape Song)." This song has a very fast-paced rhythm. The music is great to listen to -- a ripping saxophone backs the chorus along with the quick, steady rhythm of the guitar and drums.

"Try to Believe" is the song that wraps the album up. It has a great jazz sound to it. The horn section leads the rest of the instruments all the way through the song. The horns sound very similar to those found on Paul Simon's "Graceland."

Listening to this album is quite enjoyable. "Dark" conjures up images of ancient rain dances, with some of the chanting-type vocals, and provides some modern and blues sounds as well.

Danny Elfman, Boingo's lead vocalist, has done some solo work as well. He has shown talent in background music in such movies as "Batman," "Beetlejuice," and "Midnight Run."

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