

# CD Review

**Sebadoh**  
**"Harmacy"**  
 Subpop Records  
 Grade: C

In a genre riddled with artists who absorb themselves in hypercriticism of their contemporaries, each effort by a champion of the scene is always met with extreme anticipation. I'm done holding my breath for Sebadoh.

"Harmacy," Sebadoh's seventh full-length album, defines disappointment. Its greatest flaw is its ill conception. A few of the album's attempts, such as the electrified "On Fire," "Prince-S" and "Beauty of the Ride" represent a nice extension of the dark indie rock territory covered on their last record, "Bakesale." More sensitive tracks such as "Willing to Wait," "Too Pure" and "Perfect Way" also show a bit of "Skull" influence, though they sink much lower in stale overproduction and contrived gloom.

The remainder of the album is a bit more difficult to explain. It seems that, given its obvious pop ambitions, Sebadoh is attempting to maintain its punk credibility by indulging in Minutemen rockers like "Love to Fight" and "I Smell a Rat." The result is pathetic. Sadly, Jason Loewenstein,



whose talent had been blossoming, is generally responsible.

The diversity is all well and good — it's just too bad that quality and coherence must suffer. Besides its diversity, this record is everything that 1991's "III" wasn't: derivative, vapid, uncreative, disunified, and relatively insignificant. Sadly, it seems quite fitting that they close their era of inventive rock with the antithesis of that which began it all, "III." "Bakesale" flirted with mediocrity, and the 19 tracks of this record finish off the act of killing the goose.

Feel free to exhale.

— Matt Kudlacz

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