

CD Review



Boogie Shoes
"Greatest Hits, Vol. 1"
 Symbiotic Records
 Grade: A

"Greatest Hits, Vol. 1" is the first effort from the Boogie Shoes, a band from the City of Winds. I can easily say this album is one of the best premiere albums I've heard in a long time. No, these guys probably won't be getting on MTV or The Edge anytime soon, but if you'd like a combination of The Urge, Beastie Boys, and the old Red Hot Chili Peppers-style of music, I highly recommend picking this one up.

The first single off the album, "Passin' Back and Forth," features the Boogie Shoes' horns, Furious' amazing bass, and the lyrics of lead men Mister D and Master B. There is a limited edition blue vinyl single of the song, available through Symbiotic Records, which also includes the track "Power."

Other tracks include "Loop-de-Loop," a song which exemplifies the band's funky sound, where the horns are reminiscent of The Urge's "Violent Opposition." "I Know It Well," "With the Thumb Out" and "Gum" keep the album moving and heads a bobbing. Little inserts such as "Big Daddy Cann," "Jeepers Cripes" and "Two Quarter Booty" make the album that much better.

I guarantee that if you listen to this album, you will like it. If anything, "Loop-de-Loop" makes for a good party track, and "For Your Mind" is

good to chill out to. Buy this album, and you'll understand the power of the Shoes.

— Patrick Miner



The Heads
"No Talking - Just Head"
 MCA Records
 Grade: C+

After the Talking Heads broke up, lead singer David Byrne went on to do solo work, some of which has done well and some of which hasn't.

But this leaves the unanswered question: Whatever happened to the rest of the band?

Well, the album "No Talking - Just Head" answers that question. Chris Frantz, Jerry Harrison and Tina Weymouth are still around, but without their neurotic leader, they just don't seem as powerful.

To replace Byrne's absence, the remaining band members (who are now calling themselves The Heads) drafted whatever vocalists they could find to sing with them on this album.

The result is kind of like surfing the radio or listening to a compendium with a ton of different artists. The one thing it doesn't come across as is an album.

There are a lot of good singers here, too. The list includes little known but impressive singers like Gavin Friday (who doubled with Bono for the "In The Name of the Father" soundtrack) and Shaun Ryder (formerly of The

Happy Mondays and now of Black Grape).

The album also includes big names like Andy Partridge (of XTC), Maria McKee, Gordon Gano (of the Violent Femmes), Johnette Napolitano (formerly of Concrete Blonde), Ed Kowalczyk (of Live) and Michael Hutchence (of INXS).

Not a lot of the songs are great, though. Try and blend Napolitano's growling voice with a band accustomed to backing a guy whose voice can best be described as a twitch. On her two tracks she either dwarfs the Heads or is lost in their instrumentation.

When Hutchence gets his chance, he and the Heads vibe in an interesting way. It's not INXS leftovers, nor is it a stale Talking Heads recap. They both sort of go into a sound neither of them is tied to.

It gets really funny when Shaun Ryder steps up to the microphone. The Heads are stuck trying to keep up with the disco fever pace that Ryder sets.

Kowalczyk takes perhaps the most boring song he could write, "Indie Hair," and gives it to the Heads. They can't do much with it, either.

Gano's "Only The Lonely" is almost like something the Femmes would record a few hours after a concert. It's sluggish, lethargic and generally unexciting.

Luckily, both Partridge and Friday do something different than the standard for the album, which seems to be other singers trying to capture the feel of David Byrne.

Partridge's "Papersnow" is somewhere between an XTC number and a Dukes of Stratosphere song, but with some Talking Heads thrown in. The result is pleasant.

Friday closes the album out with "Blue Blue Moon," which is fitting. His track is probably the best offering on "No Talking - Just Head."

—Cliff Hicks

America Online can block firm's e-mail, judge says

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The nation's largest online service, America Online, can block unwanted electronic mail sent to its subscribers by a marketing company, a judge ruled.

AOL had blocked five online sites which served as clearinghouses for unsolicited, commercial mailings. The sites were sending 1.8 million e-mails a day to America Online subscribers, causing a flood of complaints.

A Philadelphia company that sends promotions on behalf of businesses, Cyber Promotions Inc., controls three of the five sites and went to court over the block.

U.S. District Judge Charles Weiner ruled Monday that Cyber Promotions has no First Amend-

ment right to deluge AOL subscribers with e-mail ads. AOL is a private company and its e-mail computers are not public forums "in which Cyber has a right to speak," the judge said.

The ruling covers only the three Cyber sites blocked by AOL.

"This decision is a win for our members, who have consistently and loudly complained that junk e-mail is annoying, costly and often inappropriate," said David Phillips, an AOL lawyer.

Although junk mail sent through the U.S. Postal Service is perfectly legal and costs nothing to recipients, the rules have yet to be defined for cyberspace, where unwanted e-mail can cost recipients paying for computer time.

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