

New Releases

The Goo Goo Dolls
"Dizzy Up The Girl"
 Warner Brothers
Grade: B-

"Don't fix what isn't broken" had to be the slogan for the Goo Goo Dolls when they recorded "Dizzy Up The Girl." To throw out a better cliché: It's the same of song and dance.

Pop-rock ballad band the Goo Goo Dolls released a couple of albums, toured with the Replacements and had a minor hit on MTV ("We Are The Normal") before they ever hit it big back in 1995.

Enter "Name."

The second single from "A Boy Named Goo" ruled the airwaves for months. It was an acoustic-flavored soft ballad in a time of roaring guitars and screaming vocalists. What was unique about the success of "Name" was that the majority of its album (and, in fact, most of the Dolls' music in general) took a much harder edge.

For a while, the Dolls vanished from the limelight, swallowed by a dizzying schedule of tours.

Enter "Iris."

Again, another ballad brought the Dolls to the foreground, this time on the "City of Angels" soundtrack. It seemed that the only Dolls songs that were going to grab the attention of the masses were ballads.

Enter "Dizzy Up the Girl."

On this album, electric guitars appear with as

much scarcity as acoustic guitars did on their previous work. "Ballad City" would have been a better name for this recording. While none of the songs stink, many merely blend together into a cohesive gel that ends up as only bland.

This isn't to badmouth the songs, per se, but to point out that ballad after ballad drag an album down like lead shoes. Add to this the fact that out of the two vocalists in the band, only guitarist Johnny Rzeznik's voice is suited for ballads. Bassist Robby Takac should stick to screaming.

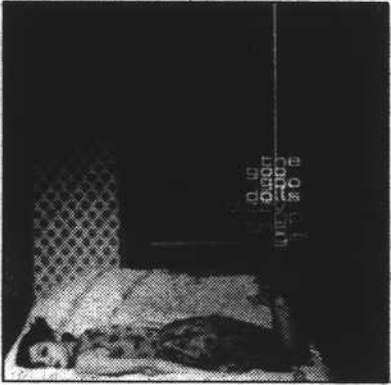
Rzeznik knows how to write singles, though, and that's the way to listen to "Dizzy Up The Girl" — one or two songs at a time. Tracks like "Bullet Proof," "All Eyes On Me" and "Dizzy" are fantastic songs by themselves, but on one album, it starts to feel like *deja vu* all over again.

In the end it sounds like we only got half of an entire Goo Goo Dolls album and all

the great electric rock songs are sitting in a studio somewhere.

Still, the songs on "Dizzy Up The Girl" make great night music and, for people who only liked the song "Name" off of "A Boy Named Goo," this album is a great bunch of material. Also, it saves buying the mediocre "City of Angels" soundtrack, because "Iris" is repeated here. The rest of us can listen and enjoy half of the Goo Goo Dolls sound that we should have gotten.

—Cliff Hicks



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