

SOUNDBITES

Squeeze
Play

As the most underrated band of the '80s moves into the '90s, it's about time Squeeze got a break. Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook have spent much of their songwriting careers trying to live up to the Lennon-McCartney comparisons of their work. In addition, despite the band's occasional mainstream success with singles like "Tempted," "Black Coffee in Bed," and "Hourglass," Squeeze has had a hard time graduating from college radio.



Still, after 12 albums Squeeze keeps plugging on, and *Play* is the latest fruit of their efforts. While keyboard player Jools Holland has once again departed the band, his absence brings Squeeze back to a more basic, acoustic sound that is reminiscent of how Split Enz became Crowded House. The better numbers on

Play include "There is Voice," "The Truth," and "Cupid's Toy," an outstanding mid-tempo ballad that echoes the sound of Spandau Ballet's early-'80s smash, "True." While Squeeze does offer the potential mainstream songs "Crying in My Sleep" and "Sunday Street," the back-to-basics approach is what makes the album worth hearing. Unfortunately, the masses probably won't notice the maturity and intelligence of *Play*, and Squeeze may remain one of the best-kept secrets in pop music. ■ David McDaniel, *The Red & Black*, U. of Georgia

Red Hot Chili Peppers
Blood Sugar Sex Magic

The Peppers are once again spicing things up with unbelievably red-hot rock. Their latest release, *Blood Sugar Sex Magic*, is purely potent, soulful, outrageous and funky. Produced by famed Rick Rubin (known for his work with The Cult, Slayer and the Black Crowes), *Blood Sugar Sex Magic* comprises 16 captivating tracks, including the ferocious

single "Give It Away." This record is a mecca for groovy bass lines, slightly disco-ish tunes, and absurd lyrics.

The punky flamboyant Peppers even rented the haunted Hollywood mansion which artists like Jimi Hendrix and The Beatles frequented to pen their tunes. The spirits seem to have stirred new, out-of-bounds musical energies. For a hot deal you won't find at the grocery store, pick up this burning medley of bustling beats — and forget the fire extinguisher. ■ Kristy Larson, *The Chicago Flame*, U. of Illinois, Chicago

Robyn Hitchcock
Perspex Island

Robyn Hitchcock and the Egyptians' career has been a trippy, imaginative ride, conjuring some of the most unique albums on the alternative music scene. *Perspex*

Island, the latest swatch from Hitchcock's magic carpet, proves that he hasn't lost that velvet touch.

The album blasts off with the same "Beatles on Mars" sound that has become Hitchcock's trademark. "So You Think You're In Love" and "Ultra Unbelievable Love" are quirky guitar-powered rock tunes decked out in tumbling melodies and punchy beats. The real trip, though, begins with "Vegetation and Dimes," a subdued panorama of sound serving as a gateway to the album's atmospheric second half. From there on, *Perspex Island* is like an M.C. Escher print set to music.

Perspex Island is like a trip through a carnival funhouse, enveloping you in a strange and unique world that will leave you saying, "Wow, let's do that again!" ■ Sean Leary, *The Northern Star*, Northern Illinois U.

Danish

(continued from page 13)

based on Charlotte Perkins Gilman's feminist classic, "The Yellow Wallpaper." But although their songs are chiefly written by women — Ritter and fellow vocalist Gretchen Seager — the group resists the "feminist" image.

"I don't see it as a feminist attitude, just right thinking," says guitarist Louis Gutierrez.

Mary's Danish believes in equality, Ritter says. The interracial band insists all members add to the creative process.

"Everyone in the band has to endorse what's going on...and we have seven very different individuals," says Ritter.

If all this sounds too serious, remember Mary's Danish is pure fun. In concert they don't disappoint, combining instrumental funk-jams with softer vocals reminiscent of 10,000 Maniacs' Natalie Merchant. They deftly blend the sixties retro trend with modern alternative rock. Performing popular singles like "Don't Crash the Car Tonight" and "Julie's Blanket," Mary's Danish shows a polish and experience that they credit to previous tours with the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Jane's Addiction.

Now they're preparing a tour of their own that will sweep



KRIS CHUN, DAILY TROJAN, U. OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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through the Western and Southern U.S. this fall, and possibly Europe in the coming year. They've come a long way since their days as a local garage band, but Mary's Danish doesn't believe in worrying about what's ahead.

"The bottom line is if you are making good music and what kind of person you are," says Seager.

With their low-key attitude and commitment to human values, Mary's Danish might just be, after all, the band for the kinder, gentler nineties.

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

1. Nirvana, *Nevermind*
2. Red Hot Chili Peppers, *Blood Sugar Sex Magic*
3. Mudhoney, *Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge*
4. Wolfgang Press, *Queer*
5. B.A.D. II, *The Globe*
6. Material, *The Third Power*
7. Billy Bragg, *Don't Try This at Home*
8. Hole, *Pretty on the Inside*
9. Robyn Hitchcock and the Egyptians, *Perspex Island*
10. Mr. Bungle, *Quote Unquote*



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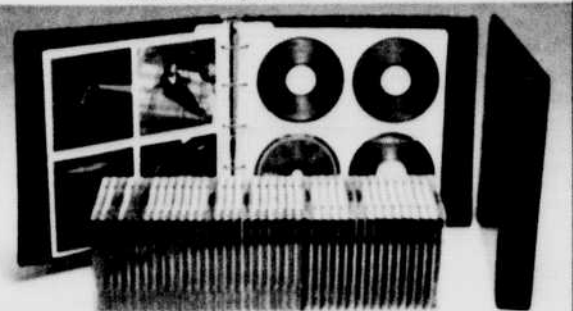
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