

REVIEW

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Oingo Boingo Best O' Boingo

MCA

★★★

••••• iridescent material ••••• nothing special
••••• worth a listen ••••• quality music

At first glance, one would think Oingo Boingo's compilation of a decade's worth of music should have been called "Soundtracks 'R' Us." Eleven of the 17 songs on the 75-minute compilation have appeared in movies ranging from *Beverly Hills Cop* and *Fast Times at Ridgmont High* to such screen gems as *Weird Science* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre II*.

Oingo Boingo may not create a musical style that defies conventional descriptions, but they certainly try. Their efforts vary from slightly unconventional techno-pop to a mad-scientist approach, tossing standard guitar-bass-drums arrangements in with batteries of synthesizers, all punctuated by a horns section. Sometimes, the results are quirky, danceable romps such

as "Dead Man's Party," "Only a Lad," and "Sweat"; songs that sound like a meeting of James Brown, The Dead Milkmen, and Depeche Mode. Other times, bleating trumpets and emotionally disturbed keyboards produce a result only a true Boingo fan could love. The group deserves credit, though, for never ceasing to be different. Oingo Boingo's

quirkiness, intelligence and wit are a welcomed distraction in a music industry full of success through formulaic mediocrity. This band marches to a different drummer.
By Scott Simonsen
Emerald Contributor



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