

# 'The Jackal' exceeds expectations

by Les Zaczek  
Freelance Reporter

Soundtracks are rarely good. Too often they are either collections of hits that we've heard a million times or unreleased and rejected songs that would have never made it onto a real album and were "donated" by artists like used clothes that you drop off at Goodwill.

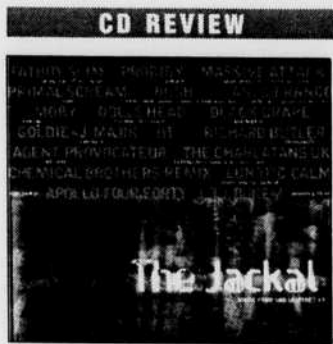
Fortunately, "The Jackal" soundtrack is neither. This collection stands on its own as a strong showcase of today's top techno and ambient artists, along with unexpected gems by Primal Scream and Ani DiFranco.

"Going out of My Head," by Fatboy Slim, starts the album on an energetic note. It is a reworked version of a song by Pete Townshend of The Who. The mix has a pounding beat interspersed with an awesome riff, a faint vocal sample and strange, stereopanned synthesizer loops.

Moving on to Prodigy's "Poison," the pace of the album slows down a bit and moves into more hypnotic territory. Judging from Prodigy's brilliant full-length album, this song is somewhat of a letdown, but it's still miles ahead of most techno music out there.

A Souxsie and the Banshees' cover, "Superpredators," by Massive Attack, is dark and disturbing and is guaranteed to give you nightmares for weeks. Nevertheless, the song is well executed and delivers a texture of beats, distortions and eerie effects.

"Star," by Primal Scream, is



## The Jackal (Soundtrack)

various artists

■ **STYLE:** Ambient/techno

■ **RATING:** ★★★★★

one of the few songs on this album that strays from the electronic aesthetic and actually has a hummable melody and clear vocals, providing a nice change of pace.

The remix of Bush's "Swallowed" doesn't sound anything like the original song, and that's exactly why it's good.

It was strange to find Ani DiFranco on this collection, but after listening to the remix of "Joyful Girl" it somehow fits. This is a great song, and the electronic aspect is so subtle that it doesn't detract from Ani's beautiful voice and gentle guitar.

Moby delivers a stunning piece of ambient music on "Shining."

This song alone makes the whole record worth buying for any fan.

"It's Over and Under," by Dolls Head, is highly reminiscent of Garbage, and maybe even better, complete with a dark melody and a catchy chorus that gives the collection more of a pop angle.

3T, featuring Richard Butler, gives us "Shineway," a slower song that provides breathing room and a nice melodic interlude among the pounding drumbeats.

"Red Tape," by Agent Provateur, is definitely a standout track and probably the most rocking song, with an actual guitar riff that drives the song like a runaway train on a downhill ride.

The Chemical Brothers' remix of The Charlatans UK's "Toothache" obliterates the original version, leaving no remnants of the song. In fact, it would be impossible to tell who the original artist was if it wasn't printed on the CD sleeve. Still, The Chemical Brothers' genius remains, and the song is indeed as good as you might think.

Closing the album is "Demon's Theme" by L.T.J. Bukem, an ambient piece which sounds very much like Enigma.

So there you have it: a soundtrack that's actually worth buying. Although I am not a huge fan of electronic music, the songs are all great, and the sheer variety and volume (16 tracks) make for one hell of a listen, whether you're new to the genre or an avid techno fan.

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## MUSIC SHOWCASE

### Modest Mouse to roar this weekend at WOW Hall



COURTESY PHOTO

**MODEST MOUSE:** KWVA's No. 1 artist this week is Modest Mouse, a three-piece rock band that will bring their brooding, expressive vocals to WOW Hall on Nov. 22. Admission is \$6 at the door, and doors will open at 9 p.m. The show is scheduled to begin at 9:30 p.m.

### KWVA Radio's Top 10

- 1 Modest Mouse**  
*The Lonesome Crowded West*
- 2 Stereolab**  
*Dots and Loops*
- 3 The Need**  
*The Need*
- 4 Guitar Wolf**  
*Planet of the Wolves*
- 5 KMFDM**  
*Symbols*
- 6 The Mr. T Experience**  
*Revenge is Sweet, and So are You*
- 7 Man...Or Astro-Man?**  
*Made from Technitium*
- 8 The Verve**  
*Urban Hymns*
- 9 The Crabs**  
*What Were Flames Now Smolder*
- 10 Mecca Normal**  
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