

# David Byrne makes contradictions sing on new CD

■ The prolific musician's latest release explores the complexities of life and keeps listeners rocking



CD REVIEW

David Byrne  
'Look Into The Eyeball'

Emd/Virgin

★★★★★

By Aaron Shakra  
for the Emerald

If you told me you've never heard of David Byrne, it wouldn't surprise me in the least. For the last decade, he's largely been overlooked by music's popular culture, despite releasing a string

of brilliant albums, each tackling musical territory more diverse than the last. His previous album, 1997's "Feelings," was particularly eclectic, even for his already high standards. Now, "Look Into The Eyeball" — Byrne's first release of the 21st century — extends the musical concepts in "Feelings" but is more focused and emotional. Each of the 12 tracks reflects the somber and bittersweet, the uplifting and positive.

Reflections aside, the album will keep you dancing. The music combines strings, horns and guitars. Keep an ear out, though, and you'll hear a mellotron, tympani drum and baby bass. Of course, credit goes to the small army of musicians involved; some tracks feature orchestral arrangements of up to

27 people.

One of Byrne's most endearing qualities is his distinctive vocals. On "Eyeball," his voice mingles in near-perfect harmony with the music and has never sounded better. The first track, "UB Jesus," is a rocking commentary on religious contradictions. Hopping between characters, Byrne delivers the cutting truth: "Maybe I'm gonna fry in hell/But I feel good when I burn myself."

Byrne makes beauty and rebellion seem as one in "The Revolution." Almost child-like, he sings: "Beauty rests on mattress strings/Wearing just her underthings/& when she wakes the revolution's here."

"The Accident" has disturbing qualities that must be heard to be

believed, whereas "Like Humans Do" is a contradiction; a musically cheery song with a dark, lyrical underbelly. In alien-like detachment, Byrne comments on the hilarious minutiae of human beings as he sings: "I never watch TV except when I'm stoned."

Simple bells set a surreal introduction to "Broken Things." A combination of wailing horns and funky bass lays the groundwork for the song's chorus, in which Byrne wails: "In this house of broken things/Everyone could use some help/Will you help me fix myself?" He shows subtle hip-hop sensibilities here.

"The Moment of Conception" is an oddity, almost nothing more than a cathartic rant with dissonant strings. Yet Byrne's wavering voice and catchy lyrics are oddly

compelling as he sings: "I was born without a conscience/Full of freedom, full of nonsense/From the mountains to the beaches/Eat the apples, steal the peaches."

The album's hesitant finale, "Everyone's In Love With You," tells us, "God gives, God takes/Don't misunderstand I'm a satisfied man." Byrne exposes himself on this album as a man whose emphasis is placed on keen observation, not final judgment.

With the proliferation of plasticity and production in today's music, works such as "Look Into The Eyeball" are becoming increasingly rare gems. They sound great and can also be interpreted scrupulously for years to come. This one is not to be missed.

★ MAY 2001 ★

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS WEEK

at the University of Oregon

May

Monday 14th

Art Project for Wholeness  
Protection and Strength\*  
Craft Center Studio  
5-8 pm

Ending Sexual Assault  
Ben Linder Forum  
6-8 pm

Drop-In Support Group\*  
Sexual Assault Support  
Services  
7 pm



Tuesday 15th

Survivor Support Group  
University Health Center  
12:30-2 pm

The Clothesline Project  
T-Shirt Generation  
Craft Center Studio  
4-8 pm

Tough Guise  
Willamette 100  
6-9 pm



Wednesday 16th

Queer Sexual Assault Forum  
Carson Gold Room  
12-2 pm

The Bookbinding Project\*  
Craft Center Studio  
2:30-5:30 pm

Sexual Violence On The UO Campus  
Ramey Room, Hamilton Complex  
7-8 pm



Thursday 17th

The Clothesline Project  
T-Shirt Generation  
Alsea River Room, EMU  
10 am-5 pm

The Clothesline Project Display  
The EMU Amphitheater  
10 am-5 pm

Take Back The Night Rally,  
March and Speak Out  
EMU Amphitheater  
6:30 pm

Friday 18th

Men Discuss Take Back the Night  
Location TBA  
3-5 pm

The Life/Art Process  
for Survivors\*  
Two-Day Workshop  
Gerlinger 219  
2-5 pm



Saturday 19th

The Life/Art Process for  
Survivors Continues\*  
Gerlinger 219  
10 am-4 pm

Sunday 20th

Race Against Racism  
Alton Baker Park  
11 am



Thursday 31st

The Poetry of Survival  
Tsunami Books  
7 pm

### THE ALLIANCE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

The Office of Student Life • Sexual Assault Support Services • ASUO Women's Center  
Dept. of Public Safety • University Housing • Greek Life • UO Counseling Center  
University Health Center • Men Against Sexism • AmeriCorps • Womenspace  
Greeks Against Rape • Sexual Assault Free Environment

### SPECIAL THANKS

• Peer Health Educators  
• The Craft Center  
• LGBTA  
• YWCA

\* Please note that the events marked with an asterisk require pre-registration by Monday, May 14. Contact the Office of Student Life at 346-1103 to register. For further information on any ASAP programs throughout May, call 346-1103. Brochures detailing all programs are available at the offices listed above and throughout campus.

Please contact The Office of Students Life at 346-1103 with requests for accommodations.