

those different styles of dance music would never have caught on. It should come as no surprise then – as the Bush regime falls one-by-one, the Dems recapture Congress, two strong presidential candidates (one female, one black) vie for the hearts of Americans everywhere – that the guys in !!! (pronounced chk chk chk, or as any one-syllable percussive sound repeated three times) would also evolve their sound to reflect this new, lingering hope.

While “Me and Giuliani Down by the School Yard (A True Story)” from !!!’s 2004 release *Louden Up Now* leveled dance floors everywhere with its frenzied jams and spiraling, punk funk grooves, the group also revealed an ability to dredge up nihilistic-sounding, no-wave vibes with their cover of Nate Dogg’s

“Get Up,” from a 2005 split single. Up to this point the band’s sound was at best strident and somewhat vicious and at worst stripped-down and primal (which kicked ass even then).

With their new album *Myth Takes*, !!! lets its guard down just a tad, opening up to brighter, poppier sounds. The group expands their post-punk repertoire with the tail shaking, B-52’s style guitar licks of the album’s title track and the soft-drama ambience of “Infinifold.” However, extended tunes like the epic “Bend Over Beethoven” and the throbbing “Heart of Hearts” prove that the band can still build a giant house of cards out of some simple grooves. A new !!!? Yes. A better !!!? Debatable. Still a rocking !!!? Definitely. !!! plays at 9 pm Tuesday, May 1 at the McDonald Theatre. \$14. – *Steve Sawada*



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