

in review

Rhyme And Reason OST

This album is not really for your Boyz to Men or Brandy lovers. It contains all hard rap with artists like Tha Dogg Pound, KRS-ONE, and E-40, and that's music you certainly do not hear at this end of Canada. In comparison, it is like the Boyz in the Hood and Juice soundtracks.

If rap is your kind of music, however, then you will love this album. There is a ton of great lyrics and beats that will make you nod your head forever. Former Wu Tang Clan artist RZA has a song called "Tragedy" that is strong, as well as KRS-ONE's "Bring it Back".

There are a lot of lesser known artists like Delinquent Habits, Crucial Conflict and MC Eiht that might shy you away from buying this album. If I were to see it in the store, I would probably pass it by. Since I listened to it, I really enjoyed it, and I think that rap lovers will too.

- Greg Lucas

Shaquille O'Neal *The Best of Shaquille O'Neal* (Jive/Shaq)

Despite what most people are thinking, Shaquille O'Neal is not a bad singer/rapper. I realize that this guy could probably put his name or face on a rock and sell it for \$19.95 (he's even got his own line of finger nail polish!), but his rapping talent is legit — even better than his acting.

Something else that helps this guy out is that he has many big name guest appearances in his songs, including Prince Rakeem, The RZA, Method Man, A Tribe Called Quest, Erick Sermon and RedMan. This album also contains his first appearance as a rapper, when he teamed up with the Fu Schnickens for the track "What's Up Doc?". He only raps a bit at the end of this song, but it's pretty good.

Most of the songs on this album are about basketball and his career, but there is one song called "Biological Didn't Bother", a song about how his natural father abandoned him and how he was adopted by his foster parents. It shows a side of Shaq that most people do not normally see.

All in all, it's really a good album. Seeing as he only has two albums out you probably already have most of the songs. If you don't own any of his other records, then this "best of" album would be a great buy.

- Greg Lucas

Rush releases record; receives recognition

By MARK RAWLINES

Canadian rock legends Rush recently released their latest effort following their brief hiatus to pursue various side projects. Distributed by Anthem records in Toronto, *Test For Echo* proves to be a disappointingly typical Rush album. For die hard Rush fans, this is another fine addition to their collection of 25 years worth of material. Anyone hoping to find a cut on the cutting edge of rock shouldn't look here; you can find the same style of songs on any other Rush album.

The first three singles released -- the title track "Test For Echo", "Driven", and "Half The World" — are faring well on the charts and are receiving substantial radio play. These three songs, with the addition of "Resist", are worth listening to and are definitely the best songs of the album.

Unfortunately the band seems to have fallen into the rap of writing "deep" lyrics regarding topics ranging from the environment, politics, social inequality, and religion. Don't get me wrong: there isn't anything *wrong* with writing songs that have meaning to them, but these types of songs

are boring. There is another reason they scored high on the boredom factor: they have a hard time expressing all their views in under 5 minutes. While the average song is 3 or maybe 3 1/2 minutes long, their 5-6 minute long songs seem to wear thin on one's attention span. All complaints aside, the members of Rush still clearly

(drums). These guys are still rock solid; their songs, however, are much weaker than their earlier releases. Musically they are more creative than most bands today, an example of this is the use of metrical changes and complex rhythms ("Time" and "Motion") -- true Rush trademarks. They also make many attempts to use dynamic variations to their fullest potential.

The members of Rush have become the first rock group to be awarded the Governor General's Medal of Distinction in the 30-year history of the awards, having been inducted as members of the Order of Canada. While they are certainly deserving of this honour for their contributions to music in Canada, *Test For Echo* isn't as deserving of a good review. For "Test For Echo", "Driven", "Half The World", "Resist", and "Limbo", I give three stars: very good. As far as the other six tracks go, they are deserving of only about two stars: OK, but not great. For the overall album, *Test For Echo* receives two and a half stars: a good quality album but, unless you are a true Rush fan, I would not recommend it!



Rush

display virtue, if only instrumentally. "Limbo" (an instrumental track) is a great example of their musicianship.

The trio does boast one of the best line-ups around, featuring Geddy Lee (vocal/bass/keyboards), Alex Lifeson (guitars) and Neil Peart

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