

WEEZER
Pinkerton
(DGC / MCA)

Weezer has followed up their 1994 debut recording with a collection of ten songs which are nothing less than great. The first single, "El Scorcho" is prime evidence that Weezer remains with the formula that made their first release so popular and so good. Although it is a little more experimental and a bit quirker, it is definitely in the same vein, what with Rivers Cuomo's super voice and even more super lyrics taking the forefront. Weezer opted to self produce this album, a completely different move from the work they did with big time production man Ric Ocasek on the last album. Cuomo is still one of the best lyricists working today -- the songs are like poetry set to music.

The music on this album is a lot heavier than that of their earlier releases, "Tired of Sex" and "Getchoo" being two good examples of their change in musical style, but it just seems like a natural progression for the band to take. The self titled CD tagged the band with the label of being a joke band because of their songs like "Buddy Holly" and "Surf Wax America" and their videos which, for example, implemented *Happy Days* into the framework of the song.

Pinkerton is definitely worth a listen. In fact, it's worth several listens. "El Scorcho" is definitely a choice track from the album, along with "Butterfly" which is a very beautiful and touching ballad, and "Why Bother?" which is just damn catchy.

Rating: 4 stars
- Melissa Buote

THE RUTLES
Archaeology
(Virgin)

Oh man, I just love these guys. Eric Idle is the kind of British humour. I mean, come on -- he was on *Monty Python*, 'nuff said, right? Well, he is also the creator of fab four rip off artists The Rutles. There was a movie made years and years ago. It was one of the funniest films I've ever seen. Ever. I mean it. Now there's a CD. Could life be any better??

The Rutles combine humour with great pop sensibilities and come up with one heck of an album. It starts off with "Major Happy's Up and Coming Once Upon a Good Time Band." The name says it all. There are also gems like "We've Arrived! (And To Prove It We're Here)" and "Eine Kleine Middle Klasse Musik."

The entire album is a Beatles rip off, but so was Oasis, so who's complaining? The difference this is done with style and panache -- after all, they blatantly rip them off, they don't just throw in a nice subtle allusion to "Imagine". They dress alike, they sing alike, their songs are uncannily similar ("hey, that's a nice Sgt. Pepper riff, you gonna keep that?") and one of their members are even missing from the come-back album. Hmm...maybe a little bit lacking in the good taste department with that last one, but it sure fits the style of the Rutles.

Everyone fondly looks back on bands like the Beatles and the Kinks. Well, this is a complete throw back to that era. Look back fondly on the days of free love, flower children and shag haircuts. It's excellent.

Rating: 5 stars
- Melissa Buote

booty call

Booty Call
OST
(Jive/Columbia)

You would think by the title of this movie that the songs would be nastily dirty. The album has a few good slow songs if you are making a slow jam tape. A good example is the first song called "Can We", by Sisters With Voices (SWV). If you like groups like TLC and En Vogue, then you will like

these women. R.Kelly has a really nice one called "Baby, baby, baby, baby, baby" (that's right: five babies). It's good for a relaxing atmosphere. Silk's "Feel Good" is another great song by a great group.

As far as faster songs go, there are a few good tracks by well known artists. "Plan Up Your Family" by KRS-ONE has a nice beat as well as "Fire & Desire" sung by

Johnny Gill. Some lesser known artists are worth mentioning, like 1 Accord, D-Shat, and Too Short.

If you own a lot of soundtracks, this is pretty much the same thing as those for The Nutty Professor or Boomerang. If you are like me and like to hear your favourite artists on soundtracks, than this is a good buy, except for the Backstreet Boys song (puke).

- Greg Lucas

On Stage The Rez Sisters

By CINDY VENEMA

Performed at the Mackenzie Theatre, *The Rez Sisters*, by Tomson Highway, was delightfully captivating.

Saturday night I ventured out of my house to absorb some culture, and I was not disappointed. *The Rez Sisters* proved to be a play of wit and sarcasm that looks into the colourful lives of Native women living on a reserve.

Tomson Highway cleverly sets the play's raw dialogue around the innocent plot of seven women bound for Toronto to partake in the world's "biggest" Bingo tournament. A tournament for the dreamer, because to win the jackpot is to win one's dream.

The play, starting on Pelijia Patchnose's roof top, opens with Pelijia shingling her roof while talking about her desire to go to Toronto. The pounding of her silver hammer becomes the rhythmic beat to which she and her friends harmoniously work in their quest to fulfill a dream.

Nanabush, the trickster of the dream-world in North American Indian Mythology, is the surreal character that silently exits and enters the stage in smooth fluid movements. His presense exposes the dark realities of the characters, simultaneously creating pain and comfort.

As seen through the actions and speech of the women,

life on a reserve is harsh and sometimes violent. Yet, their companionship indicates a deep sisterly bond, as they support each other in their trials. While their language is coarse, they speak to each other with truthful frankness and humour, making it easy for an audience to laugh or cry.

The actors were brilliant in their portrayals of their characters. The dialogue was fast, but the cast effectively maintained the momentum, delivering their lines on-time and very believably. To highlight the actions of the characters, the tribal music and the lighting established the turbulent, dream-like mood of the play.

I thoroughly enjoyed the

play, and found myself entranced with the quest for a dream. Tomson cleverly manipulates the audience into sharing the women's desires to go to the Bingo tournament. Then, at the tournament, the audience becomes physically involved in the climactic Bingo game, where one of the audience members will actually win fifty dollars! Symbolically, the Bingo master is the same character who plays Nanabush, the giver and taker of dreams.

The Rez Sisters is a superb performance. I highly recommend seeing this play, which is still being performed at the Mackenzie theatre this Weekend at 8 pm.



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