



MORCHEEBA
Parts of the Process
 China Records

80%

If "Morcheeba" was actually a word in some foreign tongue—and not an uninspired reference to smokin' tha doja—I would venture it'd translate into "cool breeze." The name itself is aurally pleasing, rolling off of the tongue in a way that requires an extra breathy treatment (an observation certainly not lost on vocalist Skye Edwards). And the music, well the music lends itself to hot days and heavy stress, the missing salve to times when that feeling of soulful refreshment can make you draw longer pulls from the atmosphere.

Like a cool breeze, the songs on Morcheeba's 'best of' record, *Parts of the Process*, are familiar and refreshing. It's a diverse collection of electronic-driven, guitar-accented pop songs with enough nuance to keep it interesting. It's bluesy neo-soul riding the samba electric on a tilted turntable, organ solos and steel guitar echoing behind the sultry wall of Skye's croon. There are plenty of good songs on here—the darker spaced-out tablas and tamboura trip of "Trigger Hippie," the Beckish jam meets floral bloom of "Let Me See"—and there are as many mediocre ones: "What's Your Name," one of two new tracks, featuring an outmoded Big Daddy Kane over a bubbly beat—but none that disappoint. At 18 songs, the comp runs long, but if you're a diehard Morcheeba fan or someone looking to avoid buying the previous four disks, 78 minutes could be just enough.

CHRIS MARTINS



DEATH BEFORE DISCO
 (compilation)
 PrinceHouse Records

82%

If this would have been released a year or two ago, it would've been pretty hot. As it is, PrinceHouse kinda missed the boat on the trend-factor of this compilation, as some of it leans towards the distasteful tag of "electro" (yes, I just made a sour face to go with that term). But no matter—I'm seriously shaking my ass right now, and besides, PrinceHouse says in the liner notes that they just wanted to put out a bunch of stuff they like. Cool, thanks! *Death Before Disco* takes a whole bunch of good songs from really good groups with slightly varied styles (standouts: Adult's "Glue Your Eyelids Together," Gogogo Airheart's "When The Flesh Hits," Hint Hint's "Rung By Rung," The Pleased's "No Style," Paradise Boys' "Gonna Make You Mine") and throws them together haphazardly on this CD that'll find a place in the player at my next slumber-slash-dance party.

CARRIE TUCKER



FONICA
Ripple
 Tomlab

78%

There are only two ways to listen to this album. Totally sober with a high IQ, or come-as-you-are with a head full of high-grade blotter acid. If *somehow* you can combine the two, and happen to be playing chess on the roof of Chicago's Sears Tower with a raw martini in one hand and a copy of Huxley's *The Doors to Perception* in the other... as a nuclear bomb whammies Lake Michigan signaling the end of the world, you'll need a soundtrack to the .05 second when your life flashes in front of you. Alakazam! Glitchy, electronic down-tempo with an emotive, acoustic flair—sentimental and short.

MARK VON PFEIFFER



EELS SHOOTENANNY!

The new album featuring "Saturday Morning" in stores now

"★★★★" - ROLLING STONE

Catch the
EELS TOUR OF DUTY 2003
 check www.EELStheband.com
 for a city near you

EELS
 SHOOTENANNY!



www.dnimworldrecords.com
 ©2003 SRG Music LLC

www.EELStheband.com