



albumreview

Carole Pope
Transcend
True North Records
www.carolepope.com

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Unless you're already a knowing fan of Carole Pope, listening to her newest album *Transcend* can be a bit of a gender-bender. Despite being—for all bets and appearances—a woman, and labelled as the vocalist in the liner notes, the person powering the ten songs on this album belts a decidedly male voice that sounds like it could

belong to the secret love child of Garth Algar and Bono. It certainly doesn't help the uninitiated when most of her love songs are written about women and all seem relatively similar, if not in content then in sound.

Carole Pope's vocal acrobatics work in new-wave songs like "Transcend," the breathy "Seduction," and the

itchy-cool "All Touch/No Contact." Unfortunately, her affected vocal manner comes off as a little too over-the-top and silly when applied to overtly sexual numbers like "Edible Flower." You can probably guess what she means by that title, and coupling it with her masculine voice makes for a flat track.

In general, whether you hear a man or a woman on the other end of your stereo, *Transcend* packs a cool, throbbing, but contained sound that follows subtler electronic beats and minimalist instrumentation. Unfortunately, there's fairly little differentiation between the songs, so if you're not a fan of the first three tracks, your enjoyment of the album will be pretty minimal.



albumreview

Paul Reddick
Revue
Northern Blues Music
www.northernblues.com

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

When performed well, good blues music can evoke many different emotions within whoever hears it. Unfortunately, many of the tracks on Paul Reddick's newest album, *Revue*, do nothing but make listeners cringe.

Reddick's voice, especially when reaching for high-pitched notes, sounds strained and one dimensional. Furthermore, his voice does nothing to convey the themes or meanings of the songs on *Revue*; Reddick could take note of fellow blues singer John Hammond when

it comes to conveying emotions through song. However, the rare time when Reddick does manage to give a decent vocal performance—such as on "Am I Right or Wrong?"—the overall result is quite pleasing.

Despite the problems inherent with Reddick's vocals, this CD does have one redeeming quality: the instrumentation. The true stars of this CD—the instruments—are precise and nuanced, with Reddick's talent on the harmonica almost compensating for his lack of quality vocals. "The Sidemen Boogie"

is the best track on this album, presumably because of the lack of singing—the instruments are a-go in full force, showing the magic that happens when Reddick plants his mouth around the harmonica instead of behind the mike. The other instruments, notably the bass and the drums, help stir up a musical whirlwind on this track, with interesting and exciting results.

"Am I Right or Wrong?" also showcases a toe-tapping, ragtime-style syncopation, resulting in a song that's a cut above the majority of the album. The mambo rhythms of "Queens Hotel" introduce the song on a promising note, but sadly, Reddick's vocals ruin the cool, Latin feel of this piece.

It's too bad, because *Revue* could have been a fantastic CD, if only Reddick had stayed away from the microphone and focused on the strength of his instruments. He didn't have to say a word.



albumreview

An Angle
The Truth Is That You Are Alive
Drive-Thru Records
www.anglemusic.com

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

From the very first track, An Angle's third-album, *The Truth Is That You Are Alive*, establishes itself as a varied combination of musical styles. The opener, "Oh! Oh! Oh! Trouble," is a mix of jazz piano, rock, and classic 1960s-style pop. As for the rest of the album, musical variety remains plentiful with tracks that vary from punk-rock-style anthems to feel-good love songs like "Falling In Your

Arms" and "Going to Heaven"—the latter track discussing such issues as religious views and tolerating alternative lifestyles. These issues are addressed in a very comforting manner, however, which means the disc is never really a depressing listen.

Another song, "C'mon C'mon," has a country-rock feel that at first appears upbeat, but actually contains

depressing verses such as "If I die tonight, then I guess I won't exist" But that's as depressing as *The Truth Is That You Are Alive* ever gets, especially with most of the music sounding so clean and wholesome, making listeners feel upbeat about "being alive."

While the album's title may mislead many into thinking that the album is another Christian rock release, it isn't. The album deals with themes of dying youth, homosexuality, one-night stands, and other topics of controversy—all in a polite, tolerant, entertaining, and positive manner.

Especially with the album finale "You Are Loved," listeners will relive that same feeling that they got after watching an episode of *Mr Rogers*—that it's good to be alive.



albumreview

The National Parcs
Timbervision
Audiogram
www.thenationalparcs.com

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

One only has to look at the band name to come to the conclusion that Montreal's The National Parcs (formerly known as Freeworm) are full of incongruities. Are they English or French? Are they rappers or tree-huggers? They did, after all, choose to leave the city—a place that has become synonymous with hip-hop culture—and venture out into the wilderness to collect nature's sounds, in the form of birds, water droplets, and rocks. And that list doesn't

even begin to uncover the multitude of sounds this trio has captured to create this truly unique album.

It becomes obvious right away that *Timbervision* is a tribute to the sights and sounds which naturally encircle us—hence the title. The National Parcs even provided a DVD to show the outdoor adventures they undertook while recording the album. Presented as a collection of music videos, the DVD's direction is so stunning that if you didn't already appreciate the songs by

listening to them, you definitely will after seeing how they were recorded in the outdoors.

Now, this may all sound rather bizarre, and with tracks called "Down By the River," "Marvels of Animals Behaviour," and "Pine Cone Jive," first impressions might make it difficult not to chuckle or smirk before even giving this record a chance. But when you hear nature calls mixed with chants in "Whispers from the Grave" or African beats paired with electronica as showcased in "Border Patrol," you may very well find yourself "Awestruck"—another track on the album that just so happens to contain one of the catchiest raps written and performed this year.

Ultimately, whatever genre you try to peg *Timbervision* in is irrelevant; The National Parcs have taken the streets to the cedars, and given us the best of both worlds.

Volunteering for Gateway A&E is like drinking from this bottle of Space Rum:

You'll get to hear strange sounds, and talk to ridiculous, Max Rebo-like rock stars. But with the Gateway, it's not an alcohol-fuelled dream.

GATEWAY A&E

Imbibing Corellia's Finest Spirits since 1910

Teach English Overseas

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD SEMINARS

780-428-8700 / 1-800-779-1779

www.oxfordseminars.com

LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE

Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars

780-428-8700 / 1-800-779-1779

www.oxfordseminars.com

THE GATEWAY

Circulation Public Affairs Liaison (Circulation PAL)

The position's duties include:

- Delivering the *Gateway* to designated locations on and around campus
- Mailing out all issues of the *Gateway* to subscribers
- Sorting incoming newspapers and other publications and displaying them neatly in the *Gateway* offices
- Co-ordinating collation of that year's issues of the *Gateway* for the production of bound editions

The successful applicant for this position will:

- Be available from 9:30am to 2:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the regular academic year
- Possess a valid driver's license

Online co-ordinator

The position's duties include:

- Uploading and maintaining the *Gateway's* online content
- Moderating the online comments and forums
- Developing and maintaining the *Gateway's* website and information tracking database

The successful applicant for this position will:

- Have strong knowledge of HTML (XML is an asset as well)
- Be familiar with the Apple OS X platform
- Be available on Monday and Wednesday evenings

For further information or to apply, contact Steve Smith, Gateway Business Manager
3-04 Students' Union Building
T: 780.492.6669 F: 780.492.6665
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca