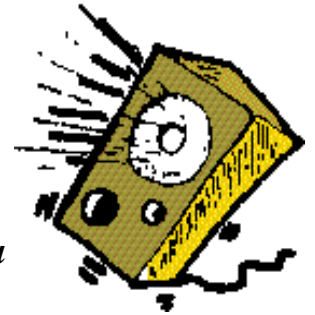


check this out! Great 8 of '98

*Gerry Belsha nails down the best of 1998
assisted by the staff of **Check This Out!***



1



cadallaca
introducing cadallaca
(k)

Three women looking mod in a 1966 El Dorado. Fun, forceful and dynamic. Why is it that the grrrls have bigger balls than the guys these days?

2



saint etienne
good humor
(subpop)

They waited until the end of the decade for their best and finally captured the sound and attitude that was floating around in the trio's heads around the time of 'Foxbase Alpha.'

3



the rondelles
fiction romance, fast machines
(smells like)

Breed the Buzzcocks with the Shangra-las and you get three kids who can barely play their instruments. This is 25 minutes of exhilaration, that reminds you of what it felt like when you believed anything was possible.

4

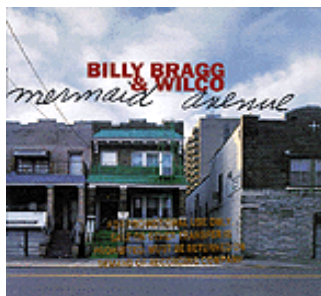


portishead
roseland nyc live
(go beat)

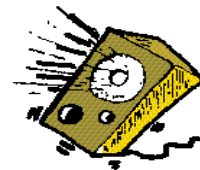
Inspiration. Sometimes labeled as depressing, Portishead proves otherwise. Listen to a packed-crowd clapping joyfully in unison with the soulful groovy guitar intro on 'Strangers.' Prove me wrong.

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5



billy bragg & wilco
mermaid avenue
(*elektra*)



Guthrie and Tweedy give Bragg a big kick in the ass and the bloke from Barking has not sounded so focused and direct since the Great Miner's Strike. And word is there is even more in the can.

6



fatboy slim
you've come a long way
(*astralwerks*)

More pop structured than his previous CD, the endless hooks veer Cook closer to his Beats International days. This is socialism of the beat at it's best. One thing for sure, when Cook finds something good, he rides it forever.

7



dimitri from paris
sacrebleu
(*atlantic*)

Bedroom culture goes international. Dimitri throws down a soundtrack that Audrey Hepburn's Holly Golightly could slither to. Sophisticated in both beat and attitude, Dimitri's foundation is a simple DIY mindset.

8



david holmes
let's get killed
(*go beat*)

Holmes travels through the streets of New York and finds more than a few twisted characters and thumping beats. All tinged with a tragic undercurrent foreshadowing 1999.