



**If you don't vote, it's
like you don't count.**

Search

Apr 25, 2003

Sections: Sounds

The Blue Man Group

by Daniel Q. Marek
March 05, 2003

The Blue Man Group

The Complex
Lava Records
3 stars

We've all seen the Microsoft commercials with the infamous Blue Man Group exploring new ways to project themselves into the air, and maybe by chance you've been lucky enough to see one of their shows spanning theaters across the States. If you've seen the live show, or heard their Grammy nominated 1999 instrumental debut *Audio*, you know that the Blue Man Group's skills far proceed the shtick-comedy that lends it self to the genre of theatre art. By building their own arsenal of instruments (like their signature interweaving PVC pipes played with flip-flops) the group has jarred the headspace of musicians looking for new ways to express themselves.

With their latest disc, *The Complex*, the group focuses on rock music more than the aural orgasm instrumentals that made them famous. The three weave a creative balance of guest appearances into an album that is sure to surprise you with some of rock's best, combined with Earth's weirdest 'aliens.'

Beginning off the album with the 'traditional' "Above," the band reminds you of their *Audio* roots by keeping things simple and relevant to their stage show. Using "Time to Start" as a transition, an instructional interlude gets you ready with traditional 'rock concert movements' like 'the basic head bob, the one armed fist pump, and, of course, the up and down jumping motion.'

Although the previous songs will intrigue you enough to keep the disc in, the rock portion of the album doesn't begin until the third track, "Sing Along" featuring Dave Matthews. With "Sing Along" Matthews chimes in with laid-back and provocative vocals floating above the 'tubular' groove. On the heavier side of things, Tracy Bonham joins in on "Up to the Roof" which blends in crunch guitars and a rush of energy during the explosive chorus filled with rhythm heavy accents by the Blue Men while Bonham's pure rock Goddess voice pulls down the walls of theatre.

Breaking the edgy feeling of the album, "Your Attention" breaks the mood only to side step you into an alien dimension between fantasy and the reality. Although the songs sounds like a crowd-pleaser for the upcoming tour the Blue Men plan to launch, the rhythmic accents with so

Sections:
Sounds

[Me and My i-pod](#)

[The Yeah Yeah
Yeahs](#)

Front Page

Main Stories

Interview

Sections

Sounds

Shows

Flicks

Grub

Columns

e-Street Team

Job

Opportunities

Classifieds

Info Guide

Pubs & Clubs

Dining

Movies &
Theaters

Venues, Stadiums
& more

Sports/ Outdoors

Schools & Local
Info.

Contact Us

Archives



VALLE
INFOR
GU

Everything
ever poss
know,

Pub & Cl
Venues
Dining Est
Campus M
Movies
and mu

CLICK

How c
answe
Preside
Call to



8MB
DOWNLOA
PRINT OR



NEED A

CLICK HE
College C

click
print

ema
to a

Current Weather
for
Phoenix



Sunny
85 F

More ▶

powered by
AccuWeather.com

many unusual self-made instruments boggles the mind as the three lunge forward to get "Your Attention."



One of the more intriguing tracks, "White Rabbit" featuring Esthero, takes Jefferson Airplane's drug induced hit and puts a harder edge and psychedelic soul to the song. Esthero's vocals teeter on sounding like Bjork for much of the chorus, but her outstanding range and agility make this track stand out.

"Exhibit 13," ends off the album in much of the same way that it began -- simple, broken down to its purest elements. But upon further listen, the ominous cello and various voices meandering in the background clue you into something much larger than first anticipated. In the liner notes, the track is followed by a web-site (www.exhibit13.com), which sheds new light upon the piece. The group collected pieces of paper that blew into their neighborhood after September 11 and compiled the song to represent the pieces of paper -- the video and original fire stained sheets are hauntingly put together on the site as a remembrance to the victims.



The Blue Man Group

Post your feedback on this topic here

No feedback has been posted yet. Please post yours!

(Feedback requires a Javascript-compatible browser)



| [Front Page](#) | [Main Stories](#) | [Interview](#) | [Sections](#) | [Sections: Sounds](#) | [Sections: Shows](#) | [Sections: Flicks](#) | [Grub](#) | [Columns](#) | [e-Street Team](#) | [Job Opportunities](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Info Guide](#) | [Info Guide: Pubs & Clubs](#) | [In Dining](#) | [Info Guide: Movies & Theaters](#) | [Info Guide: Venues, Stadiums & more](#) | [Info Guide: Sports/ Outdoor Guide: Schools & Local Info.](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Archives](#) |

© 2003 College Times