

ALSO ON THE RACKS

KINGDOM OF RUST | DOVES

It's been four years since Doves came up with *Some Cities* (2005), and this album could be said to be its direct sequel — if you're talking about the band's sound reflecting a really distorted worldview of an urban landscape.

I hate to compare Doves to Radiohead, but on this album, the Manchester-based band certainly seems to bear the experimental nature of the Oxford band circa *OK Computer* through to *Amnesiac*, by way of Devon act Muse. But hey, whatever floats your boat, right? As Doves albums go, this one isn't too shabby at all. **3.5/5**

RARE B-SIDES 1963 TO 1989 | CLIFF RICHARD

This is actually the second disc from his eight-CD box set released last year, under the title *They Said It Wouldn't Last: My First 50 Years in Music*, a collection that charted his career from 1958 to 2008.

As the title implies, these are all B-sides from his singles, so you'd be forgiven if you've never heard of any. There are the collaborations with The Shadows, as well as his solo material, but really, this album is only for completists and die-hard fans, because the songs here can't hold a candle to any of his A-side material. **2.5/5**

CD REVIEWS BY CHRISTOPHER TOH

Daddy's girl



SONGS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME | LEE CHIN

When local violinist Siow Lee Chin returned home for a three-month sabbatical last year, part of her agenda was to record an album, and this is the result: 13 songs that are a tribute to the one man who shaped her life — her father. According to Lee Chin, the songs selected were either her father's favourite tunes or the tunes that he taught her to play. So you get Vittorio Monti's *Csardas* sitting with Manuel Ponce's *Estrellita* and Amy Beach's *Romance*.

Maybe it's because her dad was around during the recording of each track, or maybe it's the fact that she recorded these songs on the trot over three days, but there's a certain added emotional quality to her playing on this album, although anyone who's seen her play will know she can really conjure up emotions from her instrument.

There's warmth, playfulness, melancholy and happiness all rolled into the pieces on this album, and Lee Chin's soaring melodies are given a great foil with accompaniment provided by pianist Albert Tiu.

A good debut — can't wait for the second one.



4/5

KATE WINSLET and LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S first reunion since 'TITANIC'



★★★★★ **'Brilliant'** — Genevieve Loh, Today

★★★★★ **'Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet still have that easy chemistry'** — Ong Sor Fern, SPH, The Straits Times

★★★★★ **'the actors are riveting'** — Whang Yee Ling, 8 Days

Revolutionary Road
In Cinemas Now



IT'S BLITZ! | YEAH YEAH YEAHS

If you thought American pop consisted only of the likes of the American Idol alumni or Katy Perry, you don't know what you've been missing.

New York trio Yeah Yeah Yeahs have been producing music that sometimes borders on New Wave or alternative pop, but that has never stopped the band from amazing us with their arrangements. And this album is no exception.

Even though there's loads more textural layering on this outing, the underlying rhythms and almost simple melody lines means you probably won't get bored listening to the album.

Gem tracks include *Zero*, *Dull Life* and *Soft Shock*, but the one that really takes the cake is *Little Shadow*, once as a big band song, and then again as an intimate acoustic number. **4/5**



CHASING LIGHTS | THE SATURDAYS

The Saturdays are five good-looking ladies who sing dance-pop numbers that skirt the threads of R&B, Euro, retro, occasionally offering the lonesome ballad but always with enough beats so suitable dance moves can be included in their music videos or live shows.

Wait — haven't we seen this with acts since the Spice Girls? Well, yes. If you're talking specifics, The Saturdays don't sound half-bad, but with so many other similar groups already in the market, they really need something that makes them stand out musically.

Too bad this isn't it. Maybe next time? **2/5**



MOVING ON | POWER STATION

It's been a long time since we heard Chinese duo Power Station do, well, anything. So it was with a lot of anticipation that we waited for this album to be released.

But for an offering that reckons to show the duo further on up the road, this album does anything but.

Power Station are best known for their rock ballads and you get tonnes of that here.

Songs of note include *Undying Heart* (previously recorded with Shin), *Love Madness* (written by Ella and Hebe of SHE fame), and *Love the Sea Rather Than You* (a duet with Terry Lin).

This is one instance where familiarity doesn't breed contempt. **3.5/5**



THE OPEN DOOR | DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

This EP is meant to finish up what they began with *Narrow Stairs* (2008), as all the songs were recorded during the sessions for that album, but were left out because they didn't fit in with the album's overall feel (the exception being *Talking Bird*, which is released here in its demo form).

But that's not to say that these songs aren't any good. The almost-sombre *A Diamond and a Tether* is a brilliant piece of musical storytelling, as is the punchy *My Mirror Speaks*.

You're left wondering what would happen if the band had developed more songs along the same vein, which highlights the only problem with this EP — it's too short. **3/5**

FROM PRODUCER MICHAEL BAY AND THE DIRECTOR OF TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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"BOURNE-MEETS-BOND..." — SPH-The Business Times

"HEART-IN-YOUR-MOUTH THRILLER" — Melanie Oliveira, 938Live & Channel NewsAsia

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DIFFICULTY RATING: +++++

HOW TO PLAY: The rules are easy. Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:

3	5	9	1	6	2	8	7	4
1	2	8	3	4	7	9	6	5
4	6	7	8	5	9	3	1	2
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