

# Reviews



**"Helleborine"**  
Shelleyan Orphan  
Columbia Records  
\*\*\*1/2

Shelleyan Orphan appears to be following in the footsteps of the Cocteau Twins and Prefab Sprout with the album "Helleborine," which features the fine voices of Caroline Crawley and Jemaury Tayle.

The Cocteau Twins was one of the first bands to prove that the attention of "progressive" music fans is not limited to bands with a repetitive dance rhythm, a loud and obnoxious sound or fast beats.

The group was able to accumulate a reasonably sized audience by interweaving the excellent, if not always intelligible, vocals of lead singer Elizabeth Frazer with a nice but unobtrusive sound.

Prefab Sprout made a

similar accomplishment a year or two after the Cocteau Twins' debut. Prefab Sprout's vocalists are not as talented as Frazer, but their lyrics are more meaningful. Still, like the Cocteau Twins, the band's overall sound maintains a soothing ambiance.

Shelleyan Orphan combines the vocal style of Prefab Sprout with the lyrical ambiguities of the Cocteau Twins and adds instrumentation that is more fully orchestrated than that of the other two bands.

The result is a sound that is pleasing and consistent but somewhat lacking in diversity. No single song stands out from the others since most are similar in style, but all are good. The album succeeds in creating a nice mood when listened to as a whole.

"Helleborine" is of a quality close to that of "Treasure" or "The Pink Opaque" by the Cocteau Twins or "Swoon" by Prefab Sprout and shows much promise for the future of Shelleyan Orphan. The audience for such bands seems to be growing, and with records like this it should continue to expand.

-Review by Tom Reinarts

**"Planes, Trains and Automobiles"**  
Starring Steve Martin and John Candy  
Directed by John Hughes  
Rated R  
\*\*1/2

Since Steve Martin gave up his career as a stand-up comedian to pursue an acting career, he has appeared in several average to slightly below-average films. His only films worth noting are "The Jerk," in which Martin had his premier starring role, and "Roxanne."

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles" is not of the quality of these two movies, and is just another average film. It is frustrating to watch Martin continue to appear in movies like this which do not take advantage of his considerable comedic abilities.

Martin plays Neil Page, an advertising executive who has just finished business in New York City and is trying to get home to his family in Chicago for Thanksgiving. On the way he meets Del Griffith, a shower curtain ring salesman portrayed by John Candy.

They are both on a flight that gets rerouted to Wichita, Kansas due to a snowstorm in Chicago, and the two men are



**John Candy and Steve Martin star in "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," directed by John Hughes.**

forced to share a room for the evening.

When the chance of getting a flight back to Chicago for the holiday looks slim, Page and Griffith decide to try some alternate forms of travel to get home. No matter how they travel, however, they have the worst of luck.

The contrast in personality between the two traveling companions is one of the major sources of humor in the film. Candy is the typical hearty and over-friendly traveling salesman and Martin plays the uptight businessman.

The two actors give adequate portrayals but both appear to be restricted in their stereotypical roles. If both had

been given more freedom with their characters this could have been a much better film.

The other major source of humor is the incredible bad luck the travelers experience. Most of the attempts at making their misfortunes funny are unoriginal and many of them appear to have come straight from National Lampoon's "Vacation," starring Chevy Chase.

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles" could have been much better with a little creativity and fewer restraints on the acting of Martin and Candy. Instead, it is disappointing and only slightly funny.

-Review by Tom Reinarts

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