

MUSIC REVIEWS

Kate Bush's 'The Red Shoes ...' Only slow songs inspire

By Jacqueline Ayotte
THE BATTALION

"The Red Shoes"
Kate Bush
Soft Pop Rock
Columbia Records

Kate Bush's music has always fallen in a category all its own.

Not poppy, not bluesy, but more like slow rock with a jazzy overtone.

Her voice has always been distinctively high, yet smooth to the sound.

Sort of like a calm, classy version of Cyndi Lauper.

But it seems Bush's new album, "The Red Shoes," carries a mixture of her musical traits to such an extent that trying to define it becomes impossible.

Maybe it's because she hasn't released an album in over three years, or maybe it's because "The Red Shoes" is based as the soundtrack to her soon to be released film, "The Line, The Cross, The Curve."

Whatever the reason may be, "The Red Shoes" falls somewhere between fascinating and disappointing.

Every slow song on the album sounds beautifully tender and deeply real.

But the fast songs are nothing more than dry and irritating.

For instance, the song "Rubberband Girl," though full of lively music, drowns out the beauty of her voice. She starts to sound like a cheap version of Lauper, and this isn't pleasant.

The title song, "The Red Shoes," has the same effect.

Luckily, the true flavor of her sound comes through in soft songs like "Moments of Pleasure."

Her voice dances along to the instruments, like a ballerina gracefully flowing through a routine. Every word is real and unadorned, yet magical at the same time.

But again, the fast songs get lost in a plethora of poppy noise.

Maybe there will be answers to this drastic transformation in her musical style once her new film is released.

As for now, my advice would be to buy the album, fall in love with the soft tunes, and fast forward through the annoying ones.



Sinatra pairs up and falls flat

By Anas Ben-Musa
THE BATTALION

"Duets"
Frank Sinatra
Classic Pop
Capitol Records

I gotta new album for you, mister. It's wild, kooky fun... babe.

With that unique delivery and talented voice, Frank "Ol' Blue Eyes" Sinatra is back with "Duets."

But "The Chairman of the Board" is not calling the shots by himself this time. He has some of today's most talented vocalists to sing some of his most popular tunes. Singers like Luther Vandross, Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand, Natalie Cole, Anita Baker and Sinatra's good friend Tony Bennett; but Sinatra still does it his way with that legendary style.

Frank can't be Frank without that big orchestra playing hard and furious while



he delivers such well known songs like "New York, New York," "The Lady is a Tramp," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Witchcraft" and many others.

Yet, in the monumental effort to blend such diverse singing and musical styles, "Duets" at times sounds awkward.

See Frank/Page 6

DANCING SKELETONS LIFE AND DEATH IN WEST AFRICA

This personal account by a biocultural anthropologist illuminates important, not-soon-forgotten messages involving the more sobering aspects of conducting fieldwork among malnourished children in West Africa. With nutritional anthropology at its core, *Dancing Skeletons* presents informal, engaging, and oftentimes dramatic stories from the field which relate the author's experiences conducting research on infant feeding and child health in Mali. Through fascinating vignettes and honest, vivid descriptions, Dettwyler explores such diverse topics as ethnocentrism, culture shock, population control, breastfeeding, child care, the meaning of disability and child death in different cultures, female circumcision, women's roles in patrilineal societies, the dangers of fieldwork, and the realities involved in researching emotionally draining topics. Readers will alternately laugh and cry as they meet the author's friends and informants, follow her through a series of encounters with both peri-urban and rural Bambara culture, and struggle with her as she attempts to reconcile her very different roles as objective ethnographer, subjective friend, and mother in the field.



- 1 Return to the Field
- 2 Of Mosquitoes and Men
- 3 Female Circumcision: Not Just Another Bit of Exotic Ethnographic Trivia
- 4 Of Worms and Other Parasites
- 5 The Grande Marché
- 6 Rural Africa at Last
- 7 Children, Snakes, and Death
- 8 Bad Breath, Gangrene, and God's Angels
- 9 Poulet Bicycleette
- 10 I Give You Rural Africa
- 11 Turtles All the Way Down
- 12 Dancing Skeletons
- 13 Mother Love and Child Death
- 14 Postscript, 1993

KATHERINE A. DETTWYLER

MEET THE AUTHOR

KATHERINE A. DETTWYLER

who will be autographing her book

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