

# Juvenilia another Phair triumph

by Rob Clark  
THE BATTALION

Oh, the charmed life of Liz Phair. To be the woman that guys want and that women are jealous of. To be sexy without being overtly slutty. To be sexually candid

most coming from pre-*Exile* recordings.

Kicking things off is "Jealousy," perhaps the strongest song from *Whip Smart*. From the cha-cha intro to the bouncy bass line, the music provides a nice backing to Phair's sassy lyrics.

And, oh yes, Phair has some sassy lyrics — "Imagine me behind your eyes / And what you see is soft hips and soft thighs / A secret position that we've never tried."

Phair's goofy side comes out in her cover of The Vapors' early '80s song "Turning Japanese." The cheesy guitar licks and even weirder lyrics give the song an extremely humorous feel.

What is so puzzling about the song turns out to be Phair's greatest asset. She can simply take a weak song, and find a way to make it clever.

Continuing the bizarre theme to *Juvenilia* is "California." In it, Phair tells the joke made famous by Sean Penn and Robert Duvall in *Colors* of the two cows deciding how to race down a hill to, uh, find a mate.

In her best New Yorker accent, Phair turns the strange into the humorous.

Even stranger though, is the continuation of this curious cow theme in "South Dakota."

Playing an exaggerated jock



Liz Phair

drunk from the country, Phair sings, "Hey all you city f--ks it's a prairie man's world."

Then it gets weird.

"Man I feel lucky tonight," she says. "I'm gonna get stoned and f--k some cows."

Yikes.

On a slightly more mature level, "Animal Girl" and "Batmobile" spotlight Phair's penchant for mid-tempo songs that seem to fit perfectly with her steady voice.

It just seems Phair can do no wrong these days. With her clever lyrics and catchy tunes, Phair pushes all the right buttons on *Juvenilia*.

While it merely whets the appetite for her next full-length release, *Juvenilia* leaves fans and critics alike gasping for more.

**ALBUM REVIEW**

**Liz Phair**  
**Juvenilia**  
Matador Records  
\*\*\* (out of five)



without being X-rated. To have a less-than-average voice, but somehow pull it off.

Ah, the charmed life of Liz Phair, who grabbed the music world by the, um, well, throat, and demanded attention in 1993 with her masterful debut, *Exile in Guyville*.

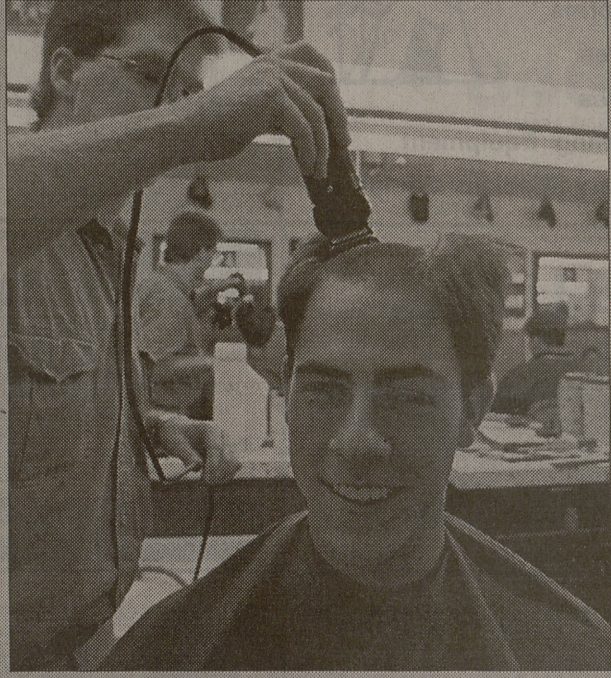
From "6 1" to "F--k and Run," this first effort marked the beginning of the alternative music world's love affair with Phair.

Not since the debuts of Prince and Madonna had an artist so cleverly mixed creativity and sexuality.

Furthering Phair's campaign was her 1994 follow-up album, *Whip Smart*. This time, Phair caught a glimpse of the mainstream with the radio and video hit "Supernova."

The third piece of the puzzle is *Juvenilia*. The album is more of an appetizer for Phair fans, as the EP contains only seven songs,

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