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Iris Davila!

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AGGIELIFE



Various Artists
Forces of Nature
 CD courtesy of Dream-Works Records



Mark David Manders and Nuevo Texas
Tales From The Couch Circuit
 CD Courtesy of Blind Nello Records



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
Echo
 CD Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Forces of Nature, the movie, is a romantic comedy.

Forces of Nature, the original motion picture soundtrack, is music to seduce even the most sexually challenged.

With its funky, Latin-dance beats and its shady, all-too suggestive messages, this soundtrack will invoke a sense of friskiness into whomever happens to be listening.

It is an album for the uninhibited, or perhaps one to have as background music while trying to rid oneself of those pesky inhibitions.

Holly Palmer's sultry vocals on "A Rose By Any Other Name" are reason enough to give the album a listen.

It is Tricky's new song, "Slowly," however, that is truly captivating with its lyrics that make even Madonna seem chaste. With lines like "Slowly, act like you know me," this song creates a purely sensual and hypnotic atmosphere.

Even songs like "Love the One You're With" add to the mood of the album.

The blend of music on this album effectively portrays the movie's spiritedness, and each individual track is premium. In other words, this album smolders. (Grade: A)

— Amy Daugherty

In a music industry saturated with manufactured sounds and unoriginal and uninspired pop-teen bands, a good singer/songwriter stands out like a sore thumb.

Mark David Manders is definitely one of these songwriters.

With their second release, *Tales From the Couch Circuit*, Mark David Manders and Nuevo Texas prove why they are a top choice as an opening act for many already established Texas musicians.

Manders has already opened for Robert Earl Keen, Jerry Jeff Walker and Jack Ingram, and if he keeps up his good songwriting, he should be headlining his own tours soon.

With songs like "Three Sheets to the Wind," "Last Night" and "Rodeo Song," Manders proves his songwriting is true to the Texas tradition — simple, but with a deep personal touch.

His songs are basic and easy for the listener to understand. His song "Koolaide" is reminiscent to Robert Earl Keen's "Barbeque" because it is about enjoying the simple things in life.

This album is Texas music in its purest form. (Grade: B)

— Scott Harris

Some things get better with age, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers are one of them.

Echo, the first record from Petty and the Heartbreakers since the soundtrack from the film *She's the One*, is as well-written and well-balanced as anything the group has released this decade.

While *She's the One* showcased Petty's ability to mold music for a specific purpose, *Echo* is an album recorded purely for aesthetic value.

Unlike many Petty albums, which tend to be somewhat limited to one mood, *Echo* contains both great rock songs and heart-felt ballads.

Several tracks stand out, including the record's first single "Free Girl Now," but *Echo* is without a doubt an album that stays in the stereo from beginning to end.

The result is an album that has as much punch as any Heartbreakers album since *Southern Accents* but is at the same time as well-crafted as Petty's solo work.

The only question remaining after listening to *Echo* is what Petty and the Heartbreakers will do next. (Grade: A)

— Riley LaGrone

Witherspoon about pregnancy new film

NEW YORK (AP) — Witherspoon is having a "pregnant" kind of day when it comes to crying over anything. "Like, television make me cry for five or an hour," she says, up artist and hair finishing touches on actress so she can view and a photo session.

The kewpie-doll old is pregnant with child and is experiencing a range of emotions in company pregnancy.

She can slip on home "y'all" or the bal tick of "like" as she mostly talks in forward manner of young woman — a the daughter of a doctor professor of nursing in Tenn., the product of a give all-girls school, University English in

On this morning, ing about her latest tion, and suggesting not neatly fit into the teen flicks that flood

And she is right character is a teacher Matthew Broderick through a middle class mainly manifests in dislike for one student by Witherspoon, achieving blonde class president.

"I think everybody body in their life that solutely can't stand. Friends like them, and like, 'I don't know who person just rubs me the plete wrong way,'" spoon, citing her own experience.

"I had a particular nior high that I didn't just drove me nuts. ways pretty and dates, and was other people don't tiously, and really me the wrong way."

"And now she's successful. ... It's And here I go, playing for a living."

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