

J!world groove

A REFRESHING NEW SOUND FOR PUFFY AMIYUMI

I have been following PUFFY (known in the US as PUFFY AMIYUMI) since their debut on television and have owned very album released.

It has been ten years since they debuted and many Japanese music stars (especially female music acts) have not lasted that long in the music scene and yet PUFFY AMIYUMI still manages to get their notice both in the US and Japan.

In the US, the girls have enjoyed the success of their animated series on the Cartoon Network and in Japan, the women are still appearing on television.

One thing about PUFFY AMIYUMI that I have always found interesting is that their music is always different.

The same goes for the songs on "SPLURGE", the first album released on the Tofu Records label and featuring a total of 14 songs + 2 bonus tracks which is set to be released on July 25th.

One thing that I find very fitting for "SPLURGE" is if you have followed the duo through various articles and even catch them singing a riff on one of their DVD's, you learn that they appreciate American rock bands. One of them is the Offspring.

In this latest album, PUFFY AMIYUMI got to work with indie icons such as Jon Spencer of Blues Explosion fame, Dexter Holland of the Offspring and Butch Walker, writer-producer of Avril Lavigne and Pink.

And PUFFY AMIYUMI wouldn't be the same without power-pop

genius Andy Sturmer (formerly of Jellyfish) and Japanese rock star Tamio Okuda (formerly of Unicorn and also co-wrote many of the duo's early hits).

So, with all the collaborations on this album, expect a variety of different genres from rock and blues represented in this album. If you have been a fan of the duo's experimentation of music, you are going to love this album.

With a mix of English and Japanese tracks, you go from the PUFFY sound of "Call Me What You Like" (and critical fans of their English songs will find it comforting that their English is much better in this album) and "Nice Buddy" to Dexter Holland injecting bouncy rock/ska to the song "Tokyo, I'm on My Way" to the awesome Jon Spencer rockabilly guitar style of "Go Baby Power Now" and "Radio Tokyo" which Butch Walker gives the group a Mott the Hoople-style influenced song.

To a 50's style song of "Miss-

ing You Baby" which cries Paul Anka and a smooth slow rock song titled "Cameland", "SPLURGE" is the ultimate musical experiment for PUFFY AMIYUMI and I dig it!

Fans who crave the fun, poppy style of PUFFY AMIYUMI shouldn't be disappointed because included in the album is a FICKLE remix of "Friends Forever" and a POLYSICS CR-06 mix of their popular "Teen Titans" Theme.

Although I will always be biased to the groups older CD singles and albums, I have to give credit to the production quality of "SPLURGE".

This album has a lot to offer and I have to admit that this album ranks high up there for my favorite PUFFY AMIYUMI albums. It's very well done and with the various music styles represented, gives fans a new refreshing look at the duo and the future of their music.

— DENNIS A. AMITH

U.S.A.

SPLURGE
PUFFY AMIYUMI

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