

Big Shout

DELAWARE'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT PAPER

Michael Mulvaney

Road

(Notegun Records recorded @ Virginia Arts Studio, VA)

There are some things that you expect when you glance the cover art of a CD and see a beard, shades reflecting palm trees, and the title, *Road*. The face that is drawn on the cover sort of reminds me of Jerry Garcia, and the title reinforces that assumption. It's not a bad one, either, because the sound has a very basic hippie feel-good way. But what of the palm trees? I thought to myself- Jimmy Buffett. Funny enough, he does have a couple songs on the album that are reminiscent of the King Parrothead himself – fun songs that you can dance to with a little of that warm weather beat. As a matter of fact, there are a few songs that sound a little James Taylor-esque too. It's really, hard to put Michael Mulvaney in a category of music. As a matter of fact, the album could almost be a soundtrack for some southern movie in which the characters either party heavily or lounge around with mellow ease. There are definite folk and blues roots, moderated with a good dose of old fashioned rock. There are times during the album when I caught myself imagining that I was back in the French Quarter in Louisiana - at one second dancing along with the band, and at others, sitting back and nursing my drink while smoking a cigarette.

I guess I keep on comparing Michael Mulvaney to other artists because I'm not really sure how to describe the album and his work. Michael Mulvaney is a very talented artist and it shows in his music. All of his work is varied and shares a familiar sound, but one that I can't confidently lump in one category. Maybe that's because it reminds me of a variety of different shows I've seen and a variety of my favorite artists. Or you could even take it as representative of the name of the title: someone who is travelling down a road somewhere; everywhere you go is different and has a different sound. The individual who has the experience is always the same person but the experiences they have alter them a bit. Just like Michael Mulvaney is always at core the same musician; his work just changes depending on the message he is trying to convey.

Okay, maybe that doesn't make a whole lot of sense because I got a little analytical, but I guess what it really comes down to is that *Road* is a good album. With 16 tracks it's a little bit long, but it's high in quality. If you can't find it in your local record store, you can write to: Michael Mulvaney, PO Box 191, Keene, VA 22946-0191. Or on the Web, www.michaelmulvaney.com

- Marigold Pascual -