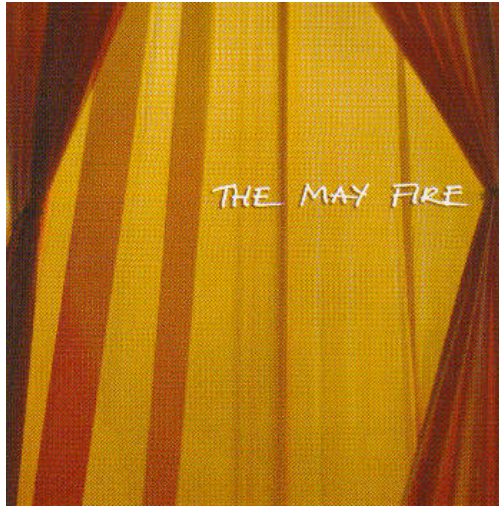


- Mr. Intolerable



The May Fire
Right and Wrong
www.themayfire.com

Adventurous and creative, Indie rock gal/guy duo The May Fire have musical spirit and imagination to spare. Working within their chosen musical genre, they have woven a wide range of influences into something that is uniquely their own. Their new CD, "Right and Wrong", starts off sounding like Sam Phillips before she went all minimal, then suddenly shifts gears and rocks like the Pretenders when they really rocked. Then it's (an arthritic?) Dick Dale fronting the Go-Go's. The lead vocals are mostly handled by Catty Tasso, who also plays guitar and maybe keyboards (it doesn't list who plays what on the CD or their website - I looked at the pictures) while drummer El Pipe (it does list what brand of drums and sticks he favors, so I assumed...) sings backup (he gets to cut loose on the thumping "On A Wire" and that may be him doing the Jim White-ish spoken word part on the enigmatic rocker "You Get Me High"). The May Fire's songs are full of hooks and melodies that sound strangely familiar but at the same time are completely original. The cheesy organ that surfaces on several songs lends an old-time garage-y feel to the proceedings, but they're smart (and talented) enough to make their influences work for them without sacrificing their own musical identity. (They're also smart enough to put the more accessible stuff up front and save the experimental songs for last - for a few seconds towards the end I thought I heard The Residents!). Full of pleasant surprises and interesting, intelligent music, this is a record that you'll find yourself going back to again and again (and notice, dear reader, that even though this is an indie rock gal/guy duo, I've made it through this entire review without once mentioning the White Stri....doggone it!). Highly recommended.

- Norman Famous