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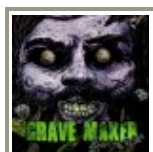
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The May Fire
The List
self released



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album review



The List
The May Fire

Reviewed by: John-Michael Bond [Wed, July 30, 2008 @ 1:26:54 AM]

After numerous listens *The List* has left me wondering exactly what **The May Fire's** "band members wanted" ad would read like. **The Pixies** formed after Frank Black put out an add for musicians who liked both **Peter Paul and Mary** and **Hüsker Dü**, and Kim Deal responded. Maybe "Female vocalist wanted: Must love **The Cure** and **Dinosaur Jr.**" *The List* is the latest EP from this San Francisco guitar rock act, and it finds the band dancing both in clubs and in front of epic Marshal stacks almost equally. "Under the Wave" is a rousing number that uses waves of guitar fuzz on its bridge to help the listener over look how much the vocal line on the verse sounds like ripped from **the Cure's** "Love Song." That however seems to be the band's sole act of cribbing, as the rest of *The List* is made up a reasons to check this four piece out. "Red Unicorn" is a slowly morphing romp that starts out with a slight cabaret piano line before mutating into a glorious cloud of distortion. Closer "Mother/Father" and opener "Burning Up" keep things to a more traditional late 80's post punk pop song template that'll have everyone from early grunge fans to eyeliner dripping **Pretenders** fanatics getting down together. It's a remarkable little batch of songs that seems to have a little something for everyone, but its universally-underground appeal has a downside to it. By being a little something for everyone **The May Fire** lack the ability to shine in any one front, which means while the album is fun it's hardly the kind of record you'll end up getting lost in for months on in. That being said this is a massive shortage of this kind of music out there and if you dig 80's pop, 90's guitar grunge or **Sonic Youth** you should already be ordering this.

6.5 out of 10
RIYL: Sonic Youth, the Cure, Dinosaur Jr., or the Pixies

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