



## GROOVING WHILE BLIND!

### BLIND MELON

#### Blind Melon

Capitol 07777 96585 Import

BLIND MELON are a band living in peace with themselves and their art. On this, their debut album, they plug into a warm, lilting groove throughout, letting the music wash over the listener in free-form waves of intertwined electric and acoustic passages. With vocalist Shannon Hoon (previously known for his guest appearance on the Guns n' Roses 'Use Your Illusion' saga) adding resonance and soul, 'Blind Melon' floats across 13 inspired songs.

Produced by Rick Parasher, there is

the expected kinship with Temple Of The Dog and Pearl Jam as Blind Melon manage to be intimate and ethereal at the same time; and there's a hint of Jane's Addiction on the two harsher moments, 'Paper Scratcher' and 'Dear Ol' Dad'. When they glide off on dreamy, spiritual harmonies, though, they're closer to the hallucinogenic mood of Led Zeppelin's quieter moments.

'Deserted' is simply gorgeous, revolving around a beautifully insistent melody as Hoon's evocative, whispered vocals smooth their way across the surface. The epic course of 'I Wonder' and the fireside atmosphere of 'Sleepy House', 'Change' and 'Time To Go' are

delicate and absorbing, their subtleties and depth being both cathartic and engaging.

Essentially, Blind Melon play Folk-tinged ballads better than anybody since Plant and Page; loose and spontaneous, brittle and raw on 'No Rain', 'Holy Man' and 'Seed To A Tree'. Here, Blind Melon are the ghost of the '60s and '70s.

This is a record steeped in heartfelt emotion and fragile power; a collection of uniformly fine, gently insistent material that has no recourse to time or fashion. Blind Melon have gone their own sweet way, making music that's almost reluctantly sensational in the process.

★★★★1/2

PAUL REES