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REVIEWS *music*



MODERN GUILT
Beck

Jogging along on his musical journey, Beck's always done whatever the hell he feels like – and as he releases his eighth record, it feels like the singer's just hitting his stride. *Modern Guilt* is co-produced by Danger Mouse, aka the skinny one from Gnarls Barkley, and the album bears his influence. Songs like *Gamma Ray* sound just the way you'd imagine a direct cross between Beck and Gnarls Barkley would turn out – all jumpy strumming and melodic bass lines. Lush and wide-ranging, the record features plenty of handclaps and '60s-style xylophone tinkles. There's a touch of electronica in there too, on the extravagant *Chemtrails*, plus some Beach Boys-like harmonies and a healthy dose of up-tempo pop on the lyrically melancholy title track. It might sound like chaos, but it all hangs together beautifully. ★★★★★

BECK
MODERN GUILT

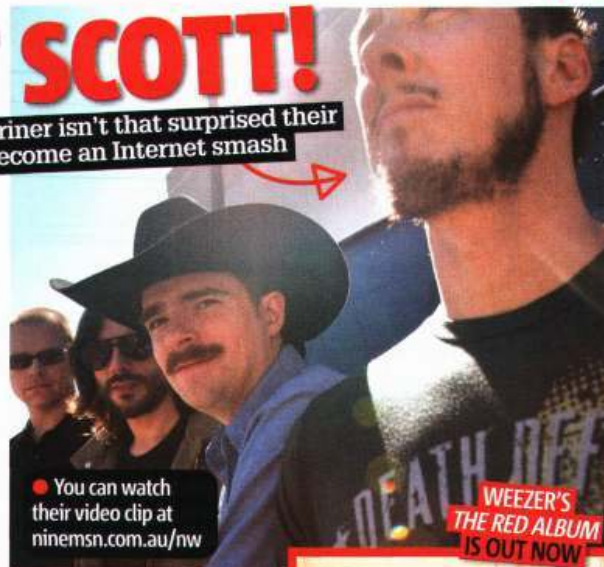


'Reckon Mary-Kate's realised I've nicked her scarf yet?'

GREAT SCOTT!

Weezer guitarist Scott Shriner isn't that surprised their latest offering has become an Internet smash

★ *Were you expecting the Pork And Beans video clip to get the response it has? Well, we hoped people would like it. When the director Mathew Cullen came to us with the idea of featuring all those YouTube "celebrities", it instantly seemed like something we'd want to do. It's such an awesome concept.*
★ *Weezer has been around for a while now – what's changed since you joined the band seven years ago? Mostly what's changed is that I feel this is really what I'm doing and where I should be at. On our new album *The Red Album*, we changed things around a little and instead of only Rivers [Cuomo, the band's frontman] writing the songs, we've each written a song.*
★ *A few of you are married with kids now – is it hard going on tour and leaving*



● You can watch their video clip at ninemsn.com.au/nw

your wives and children? Actually, they come on tour with us, so we don't have to miss them at all. We've got special cribs built into the bunks on our tour bus and the kids come along and it's just one big happy family. Although touring isn't exactly as rock'n'roll as it used to be. [Laughs.]



Weezer's *Pork And Beans* clip has audiences captivated

WEEZER'S THE RED ALBUM IS OUT NOW

hot new stuff



Album

COLDPLAY
Viva La Vida Or Death And All His Friends

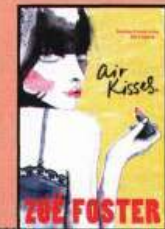
Lots of big, soaring strings and drums rumbling underneath Chris Martin's impassioned vocals – yep, it's a Coldplay album all right. The lovely *Strawberry Swing*, right up the back of their fourth studio album, is quite charming. ★★★



Album

ALBERT HAMMOND JR.
¿Cómo Te Llama?

Lo-fi, old-school jams from The Strokes guitarist, who stays true to his garage-rock roots with this sophomore solo effort. Marching-band drums on *Rocket* mix things up, while John's son Sean Lennon plays piano on the whimsical instrumental *Spooky Couch*. ★★★



Book

AIR KISSES
Zoë Foster

This former magazine beauty editor's debut novel is about – surprise, surprise – a novice beauty editor on *Gloss* magazine. Hannah's just been dumped, and while there are suitors to mend her heart, who'll win it? Great fun! (Michael Joseph) ★★★★★