

## Mp3 The Silent Boys - Beauty Tips



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Memorable and moody guitar pop highlighted by melodic and angular guitar lines. Hints of the Cure, the Smiths, the Felt, the Bats, New Order, Love Tractor, early REM and the icy vocals of Joy Division and the Chameleons. 9 MP3 Songs POP: 80's Pop, POP: British Pop Details: The Silent Boys has been silently playing and recording music for the past two decades. Influences range from bands such as the Chameleons, the Cure, Joy Division, the Felt, Durutti Column, McCarthy, Echo the Bunnymen, Adorable, the Go-Betweens, Sad Lovers and Giants, the Miracle Legion, the Replacements, Ride, to jangle-pop bands like the Bats, the Chills, the Sea Urchins and the Field Mice. Wallace Dietz sings and plays rhythm guitar. The two other permanent members of the band include bass and lead guitarist John Suchocki and drummer John Morand. Prior to "Beauty Tips", the Silent Boys released songs on various compilations including: Will There be Time for Tea (Morgan Leah), Seven Summers (Kindercore/Tweenet), and You Thought It Was the End of the World When the Rain Ruined Your Hair (Firestation Tower). "Beauty Tips" was named the #1 CD for the month of January on the Dagger Zine website ([indiepages.com/dagger/topten.html](http://indiepages.com/dagger/topten.html)). "Beauty Tips" was selected as the "Tip of the Month" for February 2004 on the Tweenet website ([twee.net](http://twee.net)). Here are some reviews for "Beauty Tips." HIGH BIAS: Vermont's Silent Boys are what I call a Jack Rabid band. Rabid is, of course, the proprietor of the great rock rag Big Takeover, which has long championed a certain strain of soaring, jangling guitar pop music-think Echo the Bunnymen, the Chills, the Go-Betweens, even Teenage Fanclub. While you're at it, think the Silent Boys, who cleanly ring in a batch of imminently hummable pop tunes that nod to their forebears without trying on their clothes. "Shades of Blue," "The Gift" and the irresistibly ingratiating "Neil Young" ("I wish I was Neil Young/Then I'd play guitar/And smash up every chord") will find eager ears attached to fans who miss 80s college rock. Jack must love 'em, and that love is well-deserved. Michael

Toland Self Help Radio, KOOP-Austin, 91.7 fm: In reviewing this first full-length from these Virginian indiepoppers, it's hard not to make comparisons with certain bands - including the Felt, Echo The Bunnymen, Go-Betweens, Field Mice - but not because the band are derivative, but because this band those (among many other proto-indiepop bands of the 80's) are nearly blood-related - it's as if certain sounds of the 80's, trapped somewhere in space, had some melodious sex this is one of their children, fallen to earth playing singing like their parents. I personally grew up on the same music as Silent Boys, &, if anything, bands like this remind you that, though much of commercial music has moved on to synthetic soul the latest bubblegum slut, there's something real pure in the longing of the jangly guitars, something warm familiar in the la-la-la's, something that you didn't know was missing in music like this. I know, I'm an indiepop fiend, but I really love the Silent Boys' reverence, if it's not always as peppy as I like my indiepop, it more than makes up for it by gloriously taking its time to have every song make the point they mean it to. Highly recommended. Gary TASTY FANZINE (UK): Arghh...these lot are annoying buggers. Let me firstly tell you that this is quite a good album indeed. The Silent Boys sound not unlike the Go-betweens or Felt, in the way that they write finely crafted guitar pop songs - there's even a bit of Lloyd Cole in there too, which is nice. But they insist, on quite a few of these songs, on suddenly changing key! The pesky blighters. So, when I'm in the bath howling along at the top of my voice to 'Shades of Blue', for example, I feel a right fool when I take one path, whilst they career down another. It's not all so complicated though, because of the frankly beautiful 'AM Radio' they go straight for the POP! jugular, and win me over with ease. I can't imagine The Silent Boys being much to watch live, because their polished sound is far better suited to the studio, and on 'The Boy Who Wouldn't Give In', those Rickenbacker's chime a bit too much - it's almost...gulp...a bit prog rock. No matter! For the rest is ace. DAGGER FANZINE: This longtime Virginia band (featuring indie pop listee Wallace Dietz and the drumming talents of John Morand who used to work with Honor Role back in the late 80's) is quite talented but I think this might be their first ever release. This fits nicely inbetween the cold/ icy sounds of Joy Division or the Chameleons and the softer jangle of the Sarah Records bands (Field Mice, etc.). Wallace has his songwriting chops down and many of these songs are memorable from the first listen. I think "The Sandman" might be my fave but each of these 9 songs is something special ("AM Radio" is fantastic as well). Tim Hinely

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