

## Video Hits

### TOP MUSIC VIDEO SALES

1. "The Information," Beck.
2. "Greatest Hits," Creed.
3. "Pulse," Pink Floyd.
4. "Past, Present & Future," Rob Zombie.
5. "Lifesong Live," Casting Crowns.
6. "Zôo TV," U2. (Gold)
7. "Bill Gaither Presents: ... Volume One."
8. "Bill Gaither Presents: ... Volume Two."
9. "Live At Wrigley Field," Jimmy Buffett.

### TOP VHS/DVD RENTALS

1. "X-Men: The Last Stand," 20th Century Fox.
2. "The Lake House," Warner.
3. "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," Universal.
4. "Thank You for Smoking," 20th Century Fox.
5. "Lucky (NU) Slewin," The Weinstein Company.
6. "The Wild," Walt Disney.
7. "RV," Sony Pictures.
8. "Stick It," Touchstone.
9. "Stay Alive," Hollywood.
10. "Curious George," Universal Studios Home Video.

### TOP DVD SALES

1. "The Little Mermaid," Walt Disney.
2. "X-Men: The Last Stand," 20th Century Fox.
3. "Curious George," Universal Studios Home Video.
4. "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," Universal.
5. "X-Men: Trilogy," 20th Century Fox.
6. "The Lake House," Warner.
7. "Thank You for Smoking," 20th Century Fox.
8. "Scarface: Special Edition," Universal.
9. "The Wild," Disney.
10. "Barbie in The 12 Dancing Princesses," Universal.

### TOP VHS SALES

1. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," Walt Disney.
2. "Requiem for a Dream," Lions Gate.
3. "Go Diego Go!: Wolf Pup Rescue," Nick Jr.
4. "The Scorpion King," Universal Studios Home Video.
5. "Grease," Paramount.
6. "Dora: Silly Fiesta," Paramount.
7. "28 Days Later," Paramount
8. "Dora: Dora's Pirate Adventure," Paramount Home.
9. "Barbie of Swan Lake," Artisan Home Entertainment.
10. "Charlotte's Web," Paramount Home Entertainment.

# The Return of Cool

BY KENAN DAVIS

Valdosta-Lowndes County Preview

U ber-hip Brooklynites TV on the Radio recently released "Return to Cookie Mountain," the follow-up to their critically acclaimed debut full-length, "Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes." And they also make me very suspicious.

This quintet just seems a little too cool. They all dress in stylish, vintage clothing. They all have great hair. One dude has an amazingly robust beard. And several of them sport smart black-rimmed glasses. And it's all with a relaxed cool that says, "What? Oh, I just rolled out of bed and put some old rags on. I didn't know there was a photo-shoot today, but that's cool." This should make anyone who regularly walks out of the house in something that could be called "sweat-pants" very nervous. Cool that comes off with such ease is off-putting. Not to mention that every time I've gone to the local bookstore over the past six months, they seemed to be on the cover of every music magazine from Urb to Filter. Who is orchestrating this hipster-hype machine? And why is it making me so self-conscious? I know that breathable cotton pants made to absorb the sweat from my thighs is not fashionable. But it's comfortable, OK?

Once I finally got a copy of "Return to Cookie Mountain," I put it into my CD player and began listening to the opening track, "I Was A Lover." I immediately realized it was one of the best songs I'd heard this year. The song's perfect union of rock & roll and electronic beats and samples stands alone as reason enough to listen to this band. In the '80s, this combination was known as "new wave."

But now it gets categorized under the catch-all term of "indie-rock." This label fails to adequately describe all the other elements of TV on the Radio's music. "A Method" and "Tonight" are both structured around a cappella singing. Jazzy horns are featured in "Hours" and "Wolf Like



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Me." Throughout the album, trippy hip-hop beats and rhythms create an atmosphere of noise that swirls around and hugs every song. Often TV on the Radio uses layered vocals that range from a high-pitched falsetto to deep, soulful tones. Even David Bowie gives his endorsement by providing guest vocals on "Province."

But there is an obvious aspect of the band that you notice once you see a picture of the group. Four-fifths of TV on the Radio is black. It's unfortunate that race is an important factor. But it's rare to see a rock & roll band these days that is predominantly black. And in America, that makes people take notice. When listening to the lyrics on the album, I found myself think-

ing of several questions. Do their lyrics say anything about the black experience?

What's it like being black in a predominantly white music scene? It doesn't take long to realize these are dumb questions. Just because someone is black (or any other color) doesn't mean they have to sing about being black. Certainly no one would wonder why Madonna isn't singing about being white. So, TV on the Radio doesn't have to answer to me or anyone else with stupid questions.

Instead, they can just be a great rock band by any standard.

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