

230 PUBLICITY

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Moviola - East of Eager

Anyway Records (AW058)

"Moviola are that rare entity—a band whose identity is the blurry combination of five individual voices, rather than a kingpin or two and their helpers. What's more, they've sidestepped the traps and girdles of the alt-country nation—or any other tribe—in favor of forging their own route, casually beautiful and always believable." - David Greenberger

Five singers, five songwriters, one band.

Columbus, Ohio's Moviola have been together for ten years, on and off, living, working, and rarely straying from their homes in the Midwest flatlands. They've made six records and countless singles by themselves in coal storage rooms, converted cement factories and elsewhere, which music-heads from Amarillo to Amsterdam—folks who can simultaneously dig Kristofferson, the Louvin Brothers, and, say, Spacemen 3—hold close like a secret. Live appearances, few and far between. Eleven kids between them. Split singles with everyone from The Handsome Family to Cobra Verde. And vive la difference: in this band everyone writes, everyone takes a turn singing lead. It's a five-headed beast, the result of which is a well-deep collective of dusty country-through-a-space-echo, folk-soul, and adult lullabies.

Ten years down the line, they've progressed from a ragged lo-fi pop quartet to the hi-fi quintet of *East of Eager*, a document of one of the finest bands you're likely to hear but, most likely, have never heard. This is their first recording as five-piece, and there's no room for filler here: Jake Housh (keyboards, guitar), Ted Hattemer (bass), Scotty Tabachnick (keyboards, guitar), Jerry Dannemiller (guitar), and Greg Bonnell (drums) all contribute at least one song, and may only the strongest survive to make the final sequence.

While staying true to the old school, Moviola has gotten ambitious in the studio, and the results color in the nuances left sketchy before. The record was recorded and mixed by the band themselves in a two-story barn next to the local plasma donation center, with various friends and Ohio State University School of Music students recruited for the odd violin, pedal steel or full horn section.

Woven through *East of Eager*, we hear moments of the Band, Kinks, *Phases and Stages* and *Sebadob III*. But like the man says in the quote, they forge their own route. It's classic sounds: soul, pop, country, bluegrass—woven through five singers and songwriters into an understated diamond in the rough. And after much frenzied five-way schedule-juggling, the band will be undertaking a few rare forays west, east and points between this spring, summer and fall. It'll be worth doing some schedule-shifting of your own to come say hi.

Selected Discography:

Frantic (1994, Anyway)
The Year You Were Born (1995, Anyway)
Glen Echo Autoharp (1997, Spirit of Orr)
Split 7" w/Cobra Verde (1997, Wabana)
The Durable Dream (1999, Spirit of Orr)
Split 7" w/the Handsome Family (2000, Spirit of Orr)
Rumors of the Faithful (2001, Spirit of Orr)
Rumors of the Faithful (2002, Cargo-Germany)
East of Eager (2004, Anyway)

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