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The New Christs

Gloria

Impedance

The New Christs aren't as convulsive, as headlong, or as catchy as Radio Birdman were. But Birdman vocalist Rob Younger's current band, an on-again/off-again aggregation of punk-informed rockers playing stripped-down, occasionally psychedelic music with a swinging backbeat and clear antecedents in everyone from the Hoodoo Gurus to Jim Carroll. Perhaps the clearest influence, though, is Iggy Pop's early '80s work on Arista Records; from its central riff to Younger's elegantly wasted vocal delivery, "The Wheel" is practically a rewrite of Iggy's "Get Up And Get Out." There's also a Berlin-era Bowie vibe on "Psych Nurse," with its extended piano solo and buzzy horns. Overall, *Gloria* is a little too slow, not quite rocking enough, to keep a listener's attention (a few songs, like "Daddy's Calling" and "The Posse," just seem to drift away). But there are some enjoyable moments, and it ends on a pretty high note with the revved-up "Bonsoir a Vous."