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## THE BILLS



### Yes Please

(RED HOUSE) [www.thebills.ca](http://www.thebills.ca)



With its digipack sleeve splendidly reminiscent of *Slade Alive!*, The Bills' first release in seven years slipped from the envelope almost demanding to be played. *Yes Please* is lively and rumbustious, displaying the infectious rhythmic bounce and gleeful harmonies of fellow Canadians, Barenaked Ladies, but with far more overt rootsy country overtones, never better than on opening track 'Hallowed Hall', itself and the penultimate track, 'Blackberry Ivy And Broom', both inventive examples of the band's high-quality writing.

Good songs, however, need precise and skilful players and sympathetic, memorable arrangements. The Bills' exemplar of such synergy is 'Not The End', where fiddle-driven country Celticism slows to a wistful instrumental bridge, reprised as the coda, before segueing into the timbrous, sawing-stringed majestic depth of 'Little Tribune'.

Although roots and Celtic influences predominate, The Bills' talents are diverse enough to draw on Gypsy culture on 'Gale In My Sail' and strutting offbeat jazz in 'Shining Face'. There's room, too, for some surprising and welcome left-field eclecticism; the mini-Mancini of the instrumental 'Love's Medley' has the feel of a hit theme looking for a suitable movie.

David Innes

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