

CD Review

## Etheridge's 'Secret' not that exciting

BY BRIAN J. KUCHAR  
STAFF WRITER

Melissa Etheridge's fifth album, *Your Little Secret* arrives hot off the heels of her multi-platinum 1993 release, *Yes I Am*.

Hits from *Yes I Am* include the grammy award winning song: "Come To My Window," and other hits like "I'm The Only One" and "If I Wanted To." *Your Little Secret* just doesn't seem to have the same prospects.

The songs on this new album are not as strong in originality. Etheridge continues to use the same format which struck gold on her last album. She starts off her songs very slow, then breaks out with a strong chorus, then she slows back down to slow softly sung lyrics. The songs on *Secret* may also have that same formula used on *Yes I Am*, but the songs lack any catchy choruses as used in classics such as "Come To My Window."

This new album seems to revolve around relationships, good and bad.

"Your Little Secret" is the

first song and the first single released from the album. The subject matter deals with a lover cheating on another. It has a heavy rock beat to match Etheridge's voice, but lacks passion and a solid chorus. It sounds like every other song you hear on the radio.

"Shriner's Park" is about young lovers trying to see where their place in life should be. "You'd slip into my car/ We'd drive down past the fence/ You and me in shriner's park." She uses the same musical pattern, starting off slowly and belting out a powerful chorus. This song, like "Your Little Secret" is not very memorable.

"Nowhere To Go" is my personal favorite on the album. The lyrics are down-to-earth about two lovers trying to find out what to do with their day. "Past the Wal-Mart and the prison... it's Saturday night/ Feels like everything's wrong." The song pulls through by having a very strong chorus which uses her voice to project the boredom she is experiencing.

*Your Little Secret* is only recommended to dedicated fans. Those on the fence might want to hear more tracks before buying the CD.

Your Little Secret  
Melissa Etheridge  
☆☆  
out of  
☆☆☆☆

## '8 Seconds' an adequate substitute

If you're going to next week's rodeo finals at the Thomas & Mack Center or wish you were, *8 Seconds* is the movie for you.

*8 Seconds* offers a nice look at a famous rodeo champion, although it lacks the excitement necessary to get you interested in the sport.

However, it did help educate me about the sport of bull-riding and its dangers.

Luke Perry plays Lane Frost in this film, based on a true story of a champion rodeo rider.

Always pressured by his father to do better and better, Frost tries to be the best he can, finally becoming a championship rodeo cowboy.

His father continues to demand more, even though Frost's achievements are many.

Frost is faced with numerous frustrations and pressures, one of them being the pressure to hang out with his rodeo pals. That translates into neglect toward his wife.

The film deals more with the problems of success and how it can affect one's personal life more than with the rodeo competitions.

This more sensitive aspect however, opened the movie up



BY BRIAN J. KUCHAR

8 Seconds  
☆☆1/2 out of ☆☆☆☆



to a broader audience. Overall, *8 Seconds* gives you a sense of the rodeo experience. If you want to learn more about the upcoming National Finals Rodeo performances, renting this movie is the way to go.

## The Boys are back in town

From country & western singers to daring cowboys, the first 10 days of December are filled with all the action you'll ever need

BY JAN WILLIAMS  
A & E EDITOR

Saddle up, little dogies, the rodeo is back in town.

Some of country & western's biggest stars will be in town for the event, not to mention all those hot cowboys who will tear it up on those buckin' broncos and bulls at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Riding into town for a two-week engagement, Lare Char-

lie Daniels and the Oak Ridge Boys. Sharing the stage at Bally's Las Vegas, tickets for their 9 p.m. show are \$38.50.

Reba McEntire, one of C & W's hottest female singers, appears for one night at the MGM Grand Hotel. Her 8 p.m. show has stiff competition, as it plays opposite the first performance of the National Finals Rodeo.

Saddling up for a Dec. 1-10 performance is the legendary Merle Haggard, with 11 p.m. post-rodeo shows at the Sahara Hotel & Casino.

Hitting the stages of Las Vegas' showrooms at the end of the rodeo are Randy Travis at the MGM, Dec. 6-; Alabama at the Mirage, Dec. 7-9; and Brooks & Dunn at Caesars Palace, Dec. 7-10. Although the Brooks & Dunn Dec. 7-9 shows are sold out, a few seats are still available for the Dec. 10 show.

The main attraction, the NFR performances, will be

held at the T&M. Rodeo action will be featured Dec. 1-3; the Wrangler Bullfights take the arena Dec. 4-6, with the bullfight finals set for Dec. 7; and rodeo action gets back underway Dec. 8 and concludes with the final performance Dec. 10 from 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Off-strip entertainment includes country and western singer Neil McCoy at Sam's Town, Dec. 2-5. Also on the C&W venue is Clay Walker, appearing at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's The Joint Dec. 2-5. And if you've got a hankerin' for a little two-steppin', the Gold Coast Hotel has their Western Dance Hall floor ready.

So dust off your jeans, hat and cowboy boots and give up a little holler. With all these events available, you should have no problem filling in your dance card.



Charlie Daniels (above) and the Oak Ridge Boys are just a few of the big name entertainers slated to appear during the 1995 National Finals Rodeo. Catch Daniels singing the National Anthem Saturday at the T&M for the second NFR performance.

## NFR brings Oak Ridge Boys, Charlie Daniels

BY JAN WILLIAMS  
A & E EDITOR

The devil went down to Vegas, he was looking for a soul to steal. Well, not quite the right lyrics, but in saying that phrase from Charlie Daniel's hit, "The Devil went down to Georgia," one knows right away who we are talking about.

Daniels, along with the Oak Ridge Boys, known for such hits as "Elvira" and "Bobbie Sue," take the stage at Bally's Las Vegas tonight through Dec. 13 in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo. Daniels will sing the National Anthem at Saturday's NFR performance.

Both groups are no strangers to bright lights and big cities. The "Boys" have more than 21 albums to their credit, the majority going gold and platinum. In addition to the traditional

country & western recordings, they have produced three Christmas albums. The latest, *Country Christmas Eve*, released in time for the '95 holiday season.

The Oak Ridge Boys' four-part harmonies have been a trademark since 1945. The group combines gospel music with a hard rock approach, and got their first real break in 1950, when their photo appeared in Time magazine as one of the top-drawing gospel groups of 1950.

By the end of the decade, the Oak Ridge Boys folded and restarted. Although they began picking up momentum in the '60s and '70s, it was the 1977 signing with MCA records that turned them toward country music. In addition to receiving Dove and Grammy Awards, the group was recognized by the Country Music Association as Vocal and Instrumental Groups of 1978. But it was 1981's CMA

award for the single "Elvira" that brought them national recognition.

Daniels has also been on the scene since 1970. He combines country, bluegrass, blues and jazz in his music and has produced hits like "Renegade" and "Same ol' Me." His Las Vegas show will include all the favorites, including songs from the Grammy nominated Christian album *The Door*.

He conceptualized the Volunteer jam, and artists such as Willie Nelson, the late Stevie Ray Vaughn, Black Oak Arkansas and Alabama have fiddled with the "devil."

Both groups can be seen in the Celebrity Room at Bally's Las Vegas through Dec. 13 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$38.50 including tax. Reserved show seating can be obtained by calling the box office at 739-4567.