

## REVIEWS

## THE POLYPHONIC SPREE

*Yes, It's True*

[Kirtland Records/Good Records]

Several songs into the Polyphonic Spree's fourth album, a fake, smarmy-sounding DJ announces, "Ah, yes, the sounds of the '70s from the Polyphonic Spree." Sure, there's a touch of Bowie's early-1970s magic to the foot-stomping anthem "What Would You Do?", but the roots of the Spree's psychedelic pop lie in *Sgt. Pepper*'s-era Beatles. Led by former Tripping Daisy singer Tim DeLaughter, this Texas troupe stands alongside Grandaddy and of Montreal, exemplifying America's 21st century art-pop scene. *Yes, It's True* is set to be a genre classic. The Spree's famous choir adds rousing choruses to the infectious "Hold Yourself Up" and "Popular by Design." DeLaughter croons over a clip-clopping Western beat on the inventive ditty "Let Them Be." And melodious, plaintive horns color the tender "Carefully Try," on which DeLaughter, using just two words and a pretty melody, conveys the often-unbearable heaviness of living. —Linda Laban

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