Neil Young: schlockabilly or tribute?

The Shocking Pinks perform four rockabilly covers and six original songs; songs that cover the range from clever and zany to warm and touching. "Payola Blues," replete with a "cash-a-wadda-wadda" chorus, is a sarcastic remembrance of the payola scandals from the rock's adolescence: "Here's three thousand. That ought to get it on. Thanks a lot, man. I love your new song. How about this now Mercedes-Benz. That ought to get it on. Thanks a lot, man. I'll play it all day long."

In "Kinda Fonda Wanda," Young eulogizes the names of about fifty girl-friends in under two minutes, but, he asserts, "I'm kinda fonda Wanda Because Wanda always wanna wanna wanna..." the title track pays tribute to and recaptures the energy of early rock, adding a touch of very political humor: "Ronnie and Nancy do the hop on the lawn/They're rockin' in the sixties' search for group identity and unifying music. The sound of Neil and The Shocking Pinks is crisp and well-balanced, with ample use of harmonica, piano and saxophone in solos and upright bass and snare drum providing the driving backbeat. "Doo-Wax" vocals are well integrated into the mix, never becoming annoying, or out-staging Young's voice. One cover for the record purchaser: Although the album is digitally mastered with exceptional sound quality, the total playing time for ten songs is a bit over 24 minutes, or approximately one-half an album.

Everybody's Rockin'.

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