

Local Grooves

Paradise Boys

The Young and the Guest List (5 Points)

Electroclash is so 2002 – who cares? Certainly not the Paradise Boys, who've been staging a revival of the genre practically since the day asymmetrical haircuts and leg warmers went outta style (again). And on their full-length debut, *The Young and the Guest List*, a version of which was released in early 2004 by Prince House, the San Francisco sextet (formed by the inescapable Jeff "Jefrodisiac" Fare and Bertie Pearson) actually make a fun case for electroclash's return. Sure, the title track induces mass eye-rolling with cutesy, self- and scene-obsessed lyrics like "We get in for free / Yeah, she's with me," but the disc is a worthy dance-floor rave-up when the group aren't so concerned with big-upping their own fabulous lives. Among the highlights are the infectious "Did It Again," the house number "Summer of Love," and especially the Siouxsie Sioux-inspired "I Burn for You," which finds covocalist Liz Hanley letting loose an unnerving banshee wail that would probably make the object of her affection take out a restraining order. All of which makes for an impressive debut, except for the fact that the Paradise Boys had previously promised the CD would be a "dance-fuck explosion," and really, what can live up to that? (Jimmy Draper)