



## **Hercules and Love Affair**

*Hercules and Love Affair*

(EMI/DFA)

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RATING: ★★★★★

Rather than channel the tacky tunes of the Village People or the white-washed clichés of Studio 54, Hercules and Love Affair's nü-disco debut reminds you of the power and soul that the mirrorball once had on its first go around in the '70s (pre-*Saturday Night Fever*) and during its second coming as house in the '90s (pre-C+C Music Factory). Right from the start of HLA's shining first single, "Blind," all the steamy allusions to god-on-god Greek action are sexually transmitted through the album's epic lyrics via the celestial voice of Antony Hegarty (of Antony and the Johnsons) and beguiling newcomer Nomi. Although "Blind" is enough to make you want to dig up all those classic Cerrone or Grace Jones 12-inch records HLA tips its hat to, songs such as "Raise Me Up" and "You Belong" move beyond all nostalgia, serving up fresh instrumental and vocal arrangements that age beautifully.

- ELIO IANNACCI

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