

TESS MCKENNA

BOOM BAM

Make Me Wonder

... 14 excellent tracks which should establish her as one of Australia's finest.'

Bruce Elder, Rolling Stone, Australia

'McKenna is a constant wonder. ... a clear, soulful brilliance that just about tears your heart out'

Lisa Kearns, The Age

Take Me To The Place

'There isn't a song here that is less than brilliant. McKenna is one of the best singers in the country'

David Messer, Juice, Australia

'McKenna is one of Australia's greatest talents. A sublime voice.'

Richard Moffat, Form Guide

Produced by Shane O'Mara and Tess McKenna

Boom Bam is the superbly crafted third release by Tess McKenna. Clever & catchy, **Boom Bam** is smart pop with a rock sensibility. The talents of McKenna and, fellow producer, Shane O'Mara, dovetail to perfection on this album and the result is saturated with equal parts beauty and attitude. It is an outstanding album of pure listening pleasure

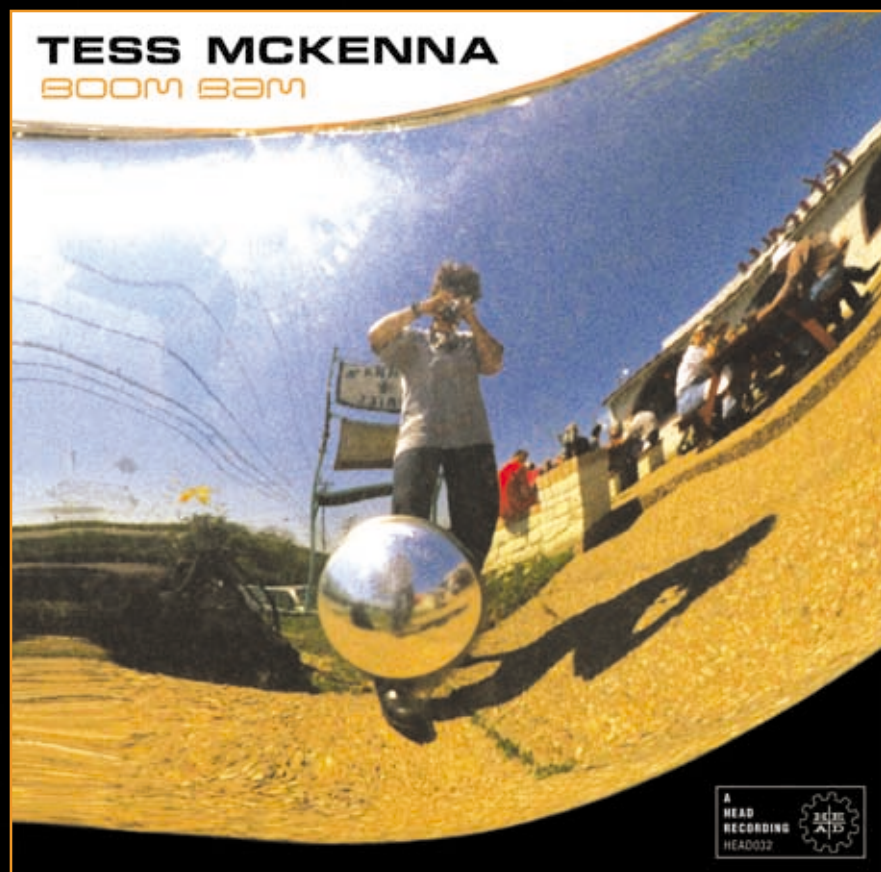
Boom Bam builds on the strengths of McKenna's past releases (*Make Me Wonder* 1993 and *Take Me To The Place* 1998). Combining a skilful blend of guitar pop and sophisticated garage, McKenna amps up. More groove, more move, more fun.

Boom Bam is McKenna's most compelling album and highlights the range of her powerful voice. Your skin fizzes with her tinder dry rendition of Deborah Harry and Chris Stein's *In the Flesh*. From the soaring grace of *Falling Into The Sun* to the cool dance-floor groove of *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* and, the strangely dislocated, *Waste of Time* - her vocals are flooring in sheer force and raw emotion.

McKenna's performance is supported by a stellar line up of musicians who range their talents across the diversity of **Boom Bam**. Shane O'Mara handles guitars and lap steel with virtuosity and coats McKenna's songs with thrill and shine. Bill McDonald's punchy bass twists and turns with a consummate dexterity. Peter Jones on drums - fresh faced and consistently brilliant. Drum n' vocals collide with the acoustic textures of Steve Hadley's double bass. The insatiable 5/4 time of the title track sees the instrumentation expand to include jazzman Tony Hicks. Matt Vehl takes a sojourn from Ice Cream Hands to cameo with some beautifully understated Hammond. Karen Rush blends, in chameleon-like perfection, adding depth and texture with her vocal harmony underpinning McKenna's lead throughout.

For McKenna making **Boom Bam** with O'Mara was like being a couple of excited teenagers left at home alone for the weekend. Trying everything in their parent's mini bar they created a new cocktail from some of their favourite bottles.

Red-hot with excitement **Boom Bam** pulls up in front of you at the lights, with tinted windows rolled up tight and the bottom end shouting and thumping to be let out of the boot. **Boom Bam** is rock and roll, black holes, celebrity, teenage time bombs, addiction, faith, sex, love and death. It's got comedy, drama and tragedy. It's the whole feckin' deal.



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