



THE WANNADIES

The Wannadies

RCA Records

Des'ree's "Kissing You" was given the official title of "Love Theme" from *Romeo & Juliet*, but the honor should have gone to the Wannadies' "You And Me Song." With its infectiously uplifting chorus, "It's always you and me/always and forever," these Swedes summed up Bill Shakespeare's

teen love ideal, sweeping up the rest of the world in their irresistible rush. Their first US disc, which compiles tracks from their two internationally released albums, *Bagsy Me* and *Be A Girl*, is a reminder of why pop was invented in the first place. Masters of the three minute pure pop tune, singer/guitarist Par Wiksten and Co. manage to jam so much cooped-up excitement into one riff, it's as if they simply couldn't contain themselves and had to come over and tell you in person why they were so hyped up. Winning ditties like the irrepressible "Because" and "Hit" pack such a jangle-laden wallop, you're left wearing a rictus grin for the rest of the day. No pretentious posturing here, the Wannadies use "ba ba ba" as a lyric with not a lick of irony. So, instead of the usual "blah blah blah," the Wannadies cheerily "ba ba ba" and revitalize the sagging pop genre. Like Par sings in the glittery pop paeon "Might Be Stars": "And when we're done, we're still aware/That we're pop revolutionaries." — *Nevin Martell*