



## What the critics are saying about Brickhouse's *Ruby*

**The Province**  
(Vancouver, BC)  
January 25, 2005  
Tom Harrison

As you might expect of a band that has a house gig (Brickhouse is a regular attraction of the Yale), Ruby has tight playing and a well-honed repertoire. What you might not be ready for is the variety. The band begins with "The Bug", which is a good calling card for Brickhouse's curve hugging funk in a James Brown groove. But it also incorporates various blues styles and drops a little reggae and a few pop cross-references a la Melanies's "Lay Down" into the mix. On top of this, Rob Bracken sings himself silly and seems to be having fun if his occasional asides are evident

**Richmond News**  
(Richmond, BC)  
Marty Sills

**3/5 stars**

**Why you should care about this band:** This Vancouver-based blues/funk group is a favourite on the live local scene and will be appearing at this year's jazz festival. The album was passed on to me by a colleague and while I have to admit it's a genre with which I'm not too familiar, the album grew on me. Brickhouse doesn't take themselves too seriously, evidenced by song titles like *The Bug*, *Funky Bum*, *Macrame Owl* and *Dicksdadsdog*. What made the album grow on me was the fact that the band kept it light for the most part and every now and then we need to hear something that gets your head nodding without having to think too much.

**The Skinny:** Overall it's a solid effort, excellent musicianship and some very catchy songs. If you're looking for deep lyrics, this isn't Lennon and McCartney but if you want something for a backyard BBQ, this will keep the mood light but add some funk.

**Best Tracks:** *Funky Bum* is instantly catchy with great horns and a funk-ed-up beat, but the real surprise is *Nameless*, a gorgeous uptempo ballad unlike anything else on the album.

**Who would buy this album:** People who like their blues light or their funk bluesy. If you like music to be fun or an escape, this might be your tonic.