



Reviews

* NEW MUSIC

NORTHERN STATE
CAN I KEEP THIS PEN?

(IPECAC) www.ipecac.com



Don't let the old-school hip-hop flavor of lead-off track "Mic Tester" fool you. Northern State is out to try some new adventures on the trio's first release since leaving Sony, starting with production by Chuck Brody of Shitake Monkey and Beastie Boy Ad-rock. The gals simulate a club mix of early Elastica on "Better Already," romp like the B-52's bringing punk to the love shack on "Cold War," and bask in Kaki King's ethereal guest vocals on the atmospheric "Fall Apart." They even go electro-folk on one song. But for all its detours, this is unmistakably a Northern State release, packed with their patented Beastie Girls swagger, including such highlights as Hesta Prynn boasting "I don't give a fuck if I rap like a white girl." That's exactly how she raps, of course. But in a good way. ED MASLEY