

OMAHA BLUES SOCIETY

Artist: Michelle Malone

Title: Debris

Writer: Rick Galusha

In a world where 'chic rock' is now its own category; few really do. That's not to denigrate the artform – but often the bar is lowered to compensate...but then I feel that way about most "rock" records released in this new millennium. With the release of her last album, *Debris*, Georgia based Michelle Malone has laid down a wall-to-wall rock n' roll record that defies such petty niche labels as 'chic rock.' Malone has a sharp Southern rock flavor more akin to the Black Crowes and Tom Petty than Lynyrd Skynyrd and Molly Hatchet. Malone plays a lyrically rich guitar style under the influences of Rich Robinson and Keith Richards; where biting counter-licks sneak in behind verses and choruses with impressive subtlety. Her songwriting shows great texture and depth as she moves from overt rocker, 'Chattahoochee Boogaloo' and 'Feather in a Hurricane' to the FM friendly sing-a-long, 'Yesterday's Make Up.' This is not a good 'chic rock' record: this is an excellent rock n' roll record in the finest sense...and these are getting to be few and far between.