



## LUSCIOUS JACKSON

### Natural Ingredients

CAPITOL 7243 8 28356-2 • 1994, 45:06

PERFORMANCE  SOUND QUALITY

Expect raves for this band that garnered “Best EP” from the *Village Voice* Pazz and Jop awards for *In Search of Manny*. With this full length debut, Luscious Jackson continues the promise of that recording. Signed to the Beastie Boys’ label at Capitol, they offer a melange of rock, rap, and soul that meanders along with aplomb. Lead singers Jill Cunniff and Gabby Glaser trade off duties in each song: Typically, Cunniff rap/sings the intro and Glaser kicks in with a vicious hook somewhere along the way.

As on *Manny*, the album is frontloaded with all the good tracks, making *Natural Ingredients* seem like a classic for the first five or six songs. “Cityscape,” the first single, is a template for what follows. Cunniff grooves above a great melody, chatting up bicycle messengers, warning corrupt cops that Serpico is still around, and then Glaser snaps in with “When I’m about to go crazy/Cause I’m still living here/I just get my friends together/And we dance, dance, dance.”

Nothing earth-shaking, sure, but they deliver it with style. And song after song—“Deep Shag,” “Energy Sucker,” “Here”—clicks until they run out of steam about half way through. It may peter to a close, but there’s big fun along the way. When Luscious Jackson pulls together enough solid tunes, they’ll be the best band around. They’re already one of the funnest.

—Michael Giltz