
Station To Station

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So much of what passes for "alternative rock" these days conforms rigidly to preordained conventions. Rock'N'Roll used to applaud itself for its wacko characters and outcasts. With the exception of Daniel Johnston and Jad Fair, most of what makes the hallowed college charts is created by reasonably stable careerists. In another realm completely is New York City's raving free-thinker Copernicus. His previous three albums have generated quite a bit of attention from music critics and writers and understandably so. No one is as over-the-top, existential and spontaneously melodramatic as Copernicus. His fourth album *Null (Nevermore)* is a mish-mash of live material recorded in Europe (where he is very popular) and studio material. If you've never heard Copernicus' philosophical raves, envision a beat-poet chanting Sun Ra fronting a large rock-fusion band, or Arthur "The God of Hellfire" Brown fronting *Tago Mago*-era Can. If you already are one in-the-know, *Null* only takes you further into Copernicus' world. Standouts from the album are the live "The Authorities", "The Sound Of The Mind", which fuses together various Copernicus poetry to a complimentary warped synth soundtrack and the long theatrical "Touch". The improvised pieces really show Copernicus' talents. On "DAHI DAHI DOHI" and especially "RA!" he is clearly swept away by the spontaneity of his muse. (P.O. Box 170150, Bklyn, NY 11217)*****