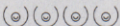




SAUN & STARR

Look Closer

(Daptone Records)



It's hard to escape the shadow of the star you're backing, but Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings alums Saun & Starr do it effortlessly. *Look Closer* embodies hints of their day job as back-up singers, with a twist. The title track oozes funk and soul, while other cuts like "Hot Shot" and the horn-heavy "If Only" draw from deep blues. Both Saun and Starr have flawless voices, as evidenced by the powerful "Big Wheel," but at times, Jones' influence looms large. Still, listen closely to *Look Closer*, and you'll find a new pair of artists to obsess over. These background singers have become stars. —KATHY IANDOLI