

THE WORD AUGUST 2008

The WORD

MUSIC MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR!

Intelligent Life On Planet Rock

THE LAST WORD MUSIC

ELI "PAPERBOY" REED & THE TRUE LOVES

Roll With You

Q DIVISION RECORDS

Unapologetically retro vintage soul
from a young Bostonian with a voice
to rival the greats

Popular music has always had its screamers. James Brown and Joe Tex were among soul's most prominent practitioners, though both were arguably out-screamed by gospel's hardest singer, Archie Brownlee from The Five Blind Boys Of Mississippi. To that pantheon, now add a 24-year-old white kid from Boston. For Eli "Paperboy" Reed, at least when he gets up into the high register, deserves a fair hearing alongside these high rankers. Genuinely. Having served an apprenticeship in the R&B clubs of Clarksdale and the churches of Chicago's South Side, he's a thoroughly convincing performer. Of course, it helps that his band equal – even possibly eclipse – the scorch and sizzle of New York's Dap-Kings. They can do sympathetic melancholy (*She Walks*) and they can do horn-heavy groove (*I'm Gonna Getcha Back*). Most importantly, they're a disciplined bunch, collectively surrendering the limelight to Reed, who really makes the most of it. The non-believers should head straight to iTunes to download the frantic (*Doin' The*) Boom Boom post-haste. In fact, I'm tempted to personally underwrite your 79p if you're anything less than utterly blown away.

NIGE TASSELL