

GOING TO EXTREMES II: DRUGS 'N' BOOZE 'N' ROCK 'N' ROLL

OPTION

MUSIC ALTERNATIVES

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● **IVO PERELMAN: Children of Ibeji** Brazilian music meets American jazz on a refreshingly different plane (no Herbie Mann or Sergio Mendes here) on this release dedicated to Brazil's staggering number of homeless children. Perelman draws on the folklore and chants of Candomble, the Brazilian religion which melds Christianity and African Yoruba religion (Ibeji is the Candomble god of children). Perelman has not only mined traditional Brazilian tunes, but he includes odd twists like a cover of Suzanne Vega's "Tom's Diner." And Perelman's almost bottomless tenor sax is also but a step away from the volcanic American jazz tradition of Coltrane, Shepp and Ayler. In fact, his plaintive working of folk melodies invokes Ayler's ghost more than once, especially with the crackling electricity he gets from his horn's upper range. But wait! There's more. Paul Bley, Don Pullen, Flora Purim, Andrew Cyrille and Fred Hopkins all appear, along with percussionists Manolo Badrena and Guilherme Franco. With Cyrille's churning drumming, Hopkins's always-taut bass, and Pullen's thunderous, aggressive piano backing Perelman, this music rattles your skull. The closing ballad, "Cantar," with lyrics narrated by a young girl, holds in tragic relief the wretched existence of Brazil's homeless children. Tough, essential stuff. (Enja/Koch Intl., 177 Cantigue Rock Rd., Westbury, NY 11590) — John Baxter