

# FILTER

HOLIDAY '05



## PILOTDRIFT

### *Water Sphere*

Good

84%

I know you know it already, but let's not forget that Tim DeLaughter wears a man-robe, people. And though his proggy art-rock protégées Pilotdrift, opt for attire that's more urban Amish than cult leader, they indulge in the kind of densely-layered atmospheric that any aspiring Provider of the Holy Kool-Aid could appreciate.

Similarly, Pilotdrift's ideology is more *Stargate*, less *Heaven's Gate*, so *Water Sphere* mostly embodies reliable space-rock adjectives like ethereal, ambitious, grandiose and bombastic. Our 'Drifters (Pilots?) set Shackleton's exploratory exploits to a pseudo-polka carnival epic, and happily DJ a midnight mannequin waltz at Madame Tossaud's but, regrettably, show little interest in Sharon Stone's 1998 nailbiter, *Sphere*. Way to get our hopes up, guys. In any event, their quest toward maximum eccentricity sometimes stalls what dramatic momentum they've earned in favor of tipping the whole ship and starting over. But what do I care? I've got a tall glass of Kool-Aid and nothing but time. TRISTAN STADDON