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WORLD

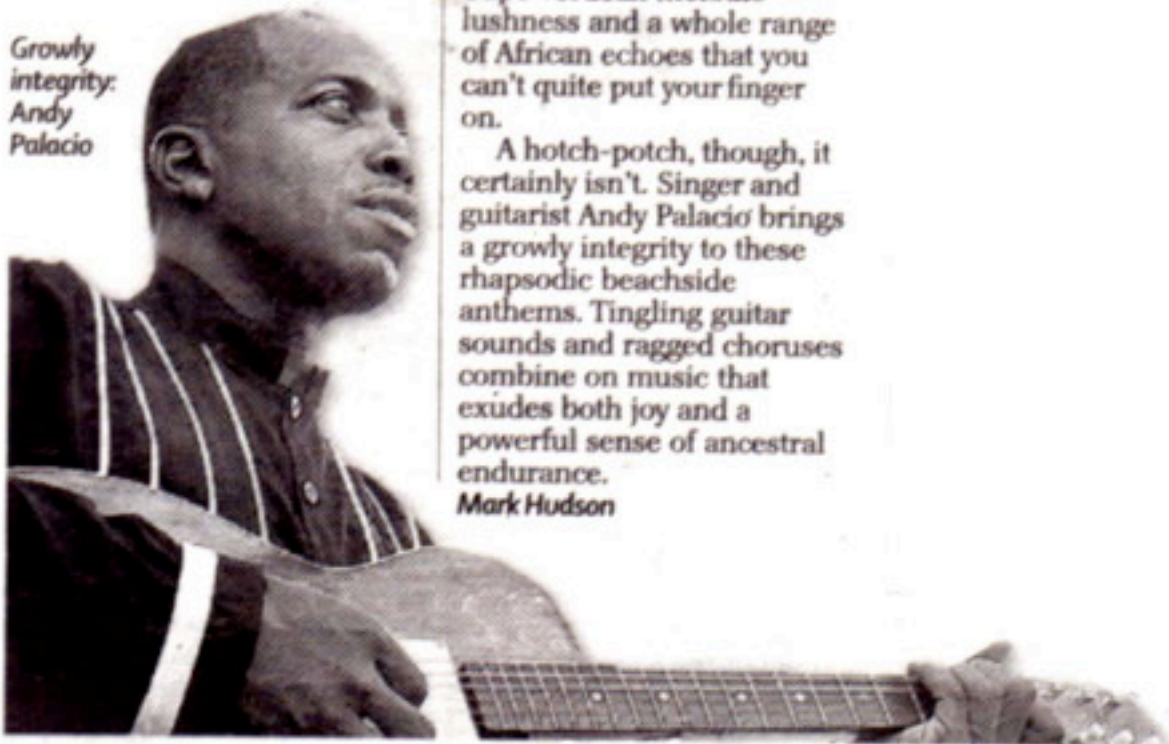
Andy Palacio & the Garifuna Collective

Watina

Cumbancha, £13.99

Descended from shipwrecked African slaves, the Garifuna people live a poverty-stricken, but picturesque existence on the white sand beaches of Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua. If they sound just a little too much

Growly
integrity:
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Palacio



of a gift to the editors of *National Geographic*, their music is a positive wish list of bankable world elements – a little bit Cuban, a little bit Brazilian, with a reggae lilt, a Cape Verdean melodic lushness and a whole range of African echoes that you can't quite put your finger on.

A hotch-potch, though, it certainly isn't. Singer and guitarist Andy Palacio brings a growly integrity to these rhapsodic beachside anthems. Tingling guitar sounds and ragged choruses combine on music that exudes both joy and a powerful sense of ancestral endurance.

Mark Hudson