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Date	October 19, 1998
Author	Harvey Pekar
Category	CD Review
Title	HENRY KAISER/ WADADA LEO SMITH: Yo Miles (Shanachie) VARIOUS ARTISTS: Endless Miles (N2K Encoded Music)
Subtitle (if any)	
About	In the review the liner notes by Enrico Merlin (for Yo Miles) are mentioned

Both of these recordings are Miles Davis tributes, but the approach taken by their producers varies radically. Endless Miles, a live recording, features musicians who played with Davis or were otherwise associated with him performing tunes from his repertoire. The cast includes trumpeters Randy Brecker and Wallace Roney, tenor saxmen George Coleman, Dave Liebman, Antoine Roney, and Bob Berg, pianists Harold Mabern and Geri Allen, bassists Gary Peacock and Buster Williams, and drummers Jimmy Cobb, Al Foster, and Lenny Williams. They're grouped in combos ranging from a duo to an octet, and their number includes both skillful imitators (Wallace Roney) and innovators (Peacock). They generally play with inspiration, but they're a long way from breaking new ground. The 2-CD Yo Miles has the advantage of focusing on material from Davis' 1970-75 electric band period, which hasn't been explored as much. **There's good reason for this, as annotator Enrico Merlin points out in the album's liner notes: "Perhaps because of its intangibility, few musical homages have been made to this music over the years. After all, we don't have songs with clear chord progressions to improvise over; instead we have music based on only a few elements, music which provides little guidance."** The basic personnel on Yo Miles is trumpeter Smith, guitarists Kaiser, Nels Cline, and Chris Muir, bassist Michael Manring, and percussionist/drummers Wally Ingram and Lukas Ligeti. Guests include organist John Medeski, keyboardist Paul Plimley, and guitarist Elliott Sharp, along with several saxophonists and bass clarinetist Oluymemi Thomas. They don't play with the daring and intensity of Davis and his sidemen, but their performances are thoughtful, well-paced, and stimulating. There are fewer long solos than on Davis' albums, more emphasis being on collective improvisation, but the Kaiser/Smith group displays its own personality, which differentiates it from many other Davis tribute outfits.

(Yo Miles) 3.5 Stars

(Endless Miles) 3 Stars

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