



Jai Agnish

AUTOMATA

Blue Bunny Records

Punk rock might now be dismally corporate, and indie rock in a state of flux, but the spirit that originally inspired both remains. Certainly, Jai Agnish works with that ethic. In between college work and publishing *Flygirl* fanzine, the young New Jerseyite is a virtual one-man writing, performing, producing, and promoting machine. He has self-released "Automata" on his nationally distributed Blue Bunny Records. Though imaginative, electronic samples are heard throughout, the basis of these 11 self-penned songs is mostly Agnish's wistful singing and his warm, flowing guitar work. Half the tracks, including the catchy, left-field "Surprised Eyes," were recorded on 4-track at his parents' house with Agnish handling all parts. A fine job he does, too, for his work has a welcome depth. Despite touching on his own personal spirituality, particularly in "Jesus Song," the vibe is not dogmatic but playful and joyful. "Automata" is either indie rock suffused with effects, or singer/songwriter pop doused in electronica dabblings. Whatever it is, it's a fine, individual effort. *Jai Agnish performs at the Out of the Blue Gallery in Cambridge tonight, and the Actor's Studio at the Tannery in Newburyport Friday night.*

— LINDA LABAN