

MUSIC

It's a Hit

Singles, Remixes & MP3s

by [MICHAELANGELO MATOS](#)



the Stranger

"If I Can't"

by **Luomo ft. Jake Shears**

(Huume)

I'm profoundly ambivalent about Luomo's new *Convivial*: Parts of it sound like Sasu Ripatti (the Finnish producer behind the project) has regained his footing following 2006's tepid *Paper Tigers*, while at other moments it seems like he's treading water—sometimes within the same song. That's how this collaboration with the Scissor Sisters' singer (and former Seattleite) struck me, and when a friend told me he hated it, it began sounding worse. But a funny thing happened: For two weeks after I'd put the album away, I couldn't get the damn Jake Shears song out of my head. (I should have known; the same thing happened to me with the first Scissor Sisters album.) Now it sounds both lean and expansive: The groove hinges on a synth bass curlicuing around everything like Christmas ribbon, each element wispy and glossy at once. I doubt Ripatti (or Shears) was necessarily going for mid-'80s Prince, and I confess that as a