



June 2014

## REVIEWS



### LILY ALLEN

*Sheezus*

[Warner Bros.]

After four years away, pop's queen bitch is back. Raising a family hasn't dulled this British singer's sharp tongue, and her third album is

loaded with wry observations. Her "Sarf London" singing style remains as effortlessly coy as it was in 2006, when she first hit with "Smile." Juxtaposition is Allen's trademark: She's got a sweet voice, but her lyrics are barbed and witty—even wise. On "As Long as I Got You," she sings about domesticity and adds a shout-out to her hubby. On the party anthem, "Our Time," meanwhile, she declares, "I'll get high, but I aint doin' benzos." While she's fetching as a street philosopher, Allen is best in fight mode. "Hard Out Here" rails against the pop business, and on the title track, she blasts the competition—Lady Gaga, Katy Perry—and mocks a certain "queen bee." In "Insincerely Yours," Allen declares, "Let's be clear, I'm here to make money, money," the repeated word echoing Rihanna's "Umbrella." Coincidence? —Linda Laban