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SOUNDTRACKS AND FILM SCORE NEWS

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HAPPY ABOUT THE INCH: If you were lucky enough to see the off-Broadway sensation *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and even luckier to own the soundtrack, do yourself a favor and see the new film and get that soundtrack as well. The movie has already won the Audience Award and direction prizes at this year's Sundance Film Festival. It's due to hit theaters in June, totally redefining the Hollywood musical as only a German, 6-foot-tall transsexual rock singer-gone-wrong could.

The soundtrack (Hybrid Recordings) keeps the best of the music from the play, the music that *is* both the play and the movie, but it softens the edges a bit. The grittier feel of the music from the stage production has been replaced by polished rock for the film, but the polish neither hurts nor diminishes **Stephen Trask's** music and lyrics. From the opening verve of "Tear Me Down" to the tragic and sullen "Wicked Little Town," this soundtrack rejuvenates expectations for not only what new music from movies should sound like but how it should be incorporated into a film.

One thing the film soundtrack does through its new songs, such as "Freaks" and "In Your Arms Tonight," is remove the tragic sexual ambiguity of Hedwig.

John Cameron Mitchell, star of the play and the film (and the director), has done an impressive job, and this film will launch him into the stratosphere as a new Hollywood media darling.

