

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY | 6.2.05

# ABC

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## JAZZ

★★★★☆

### **Polar Bear**

*Held on the  
Tips of Fingers*

BABEL



Here's something worth your time. Polar Bear are a significant ripple in the new wave of youthful, ahem, post-jazz. Driven by the garrulous drums of Seb Rochford, the group riff and improvise on fragments of a melodic/contrapuntal theme with a ruggedness not often associated with the Brit-jazz tradition. They don't so much swing as pulsate. Sonically, the hierarchy of voices goes as follows: drums, twin saxes, bass, plus computer bleeps and string hints. The general vibe is tightly organised entropy, with bollocky tunes. Check it out. You can only love/hate it. NC

