

the **Improper** *Bostonian*

December 17, 2003

Sound Tracks — Merrily Sung

By Mopsy Strange Kennedy

You're constrained from croony swooning and dancing around the cinema when a movie contains a delicious song. But you can emote all you want to REEL ONE, the new CD by *At The Movies*.

The group, comprising Michael Ricca, Nina Vansuch, Brian Patton and Will McMillan, reprises song from the most Technicolor-sweet movies of the 1950s and '60s, as well as a few newer ones.

"Secret Love" and "A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes," for instance, are given a revue-style swooping energy and cheerfulness by these three guys and a girl. One riotous number begins with Vansuch vocalizing the theme from "A Summer Place" (which starred Sandra Dee and Troy Donahue) until a voice whispers, "Troy is gay." Vansuch's perky, surprised "Oh!" becomes the segue into the guys' queer version of "Where The Boys Are."

Carly Simon's "Coming Round Again" (originally written for the Jack Nicholson movie *Heartburn*) is wistful and intense in this rendition. Sophistication reigns in most of the numbers, as if they're being sung at a hatbox-sized nightclub.

Then the group turns on a dime and does a witty ditty from the TV show *Animaniacs* about *Variety's* fast-talking, breezily abbreviated language of show-biz. The group's live performances even includes their take on more recent tunes from the likes of *South Park*.