

■ HOUSE OF LOVE, THE CRICKETERS, LONDON

There's a buzz here tonight. Members and managers of the nation's leading guitar bands are propping up the bar, waiting for House Of Love — pretenders to the Mary Chain's throne.

So do they deserve all this attention? You bet! Singer Guy Chadwick writes spooky psychedelic tunes and Terry Vickers strums his guitar like Keith Richard's kid brother. Songs like 'Shine On' are a tantalising whirl of guitars; while 'Real Animal' (the new single) burns with raw power.

Of course, House Of Love are still a bit shy, since they've had little experience of playing live. At the moment they seem startled by applause, and scratch their heads as if deciding whether to write a 'thank you' letter.

But House Of Love are already far superior to the guitar hacks at the bar. Some managers will be scared stiff.

Henry Williams