

THE HOUSE OF LOVE **Huddersfield Polytechnic**

The signs of the band's new major label status were certainly in evidence at Huddersfield. It could be new-found self-confidence, it could be the benefit of experience, it could be Fontana's dosh(!), but Guy Chadwick, previously a nervous, edgy frontman, appeared relaxed, jovial and at ease. This assurance transferred to the band, who were nothing short of stunning.

A healthy smattering of new songs opened up the set, the charged up rock of 'Shake And Crawl' and 'Never', the next single, showing no sign of Love stagnation. Complete with new, shorter haircut, guitarist Terry staked his claim for Johnny Marr's throne (I think he's better!) with glittering, explosive and highly original work on songs like 'Safe' and 'Nothing To Me'. A thousand pairs of eyes closed as the band launched into the sheer beauty that is 'Blind'. An immense 'Destroy The Heart' preceded several encores finishing with 'Love In A Car'.

The House Of Love were awesome, and that still doesn't describe how good they were.

David Simpson