

Billboard

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSWEEKLY OF MUSIC AND HOME ENTERTAINMENT March 17, 1990/\$4.50 (U.S.), \$5.50 (CAN.), £3.50 (U.K.)

ALBUM REVIEWS

POP

THE HOUSE OF LOVE
PRODUCERS: Stephen Hague, House Of Love,
Fontana/PolyGram 842293

U.K. group's second effort expands on the irresistible blend of modern pop hooks and literate lyrics that made their first outing essential listening. Producer Hague (Pet Shop Boys, Erasure) adds gloss to the songs' arrangements, thus creating greater commercial potential for singles prospects "Hannah" and "Shine On." Not to be missed.

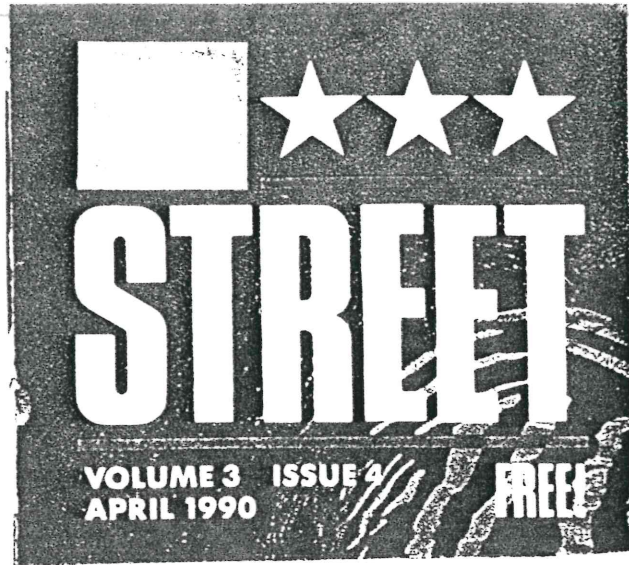
entertainment

WEEKLY

Capsules

Other notable and current releases

- ◆ **The House of Love** The House of Love (PolyGram; CD). *T*/Thoughtful alternative rock, strikingly soft-spoken. **A-**



THE HOUSE OF LOVE

The House Of Love's first self-titled American album on Fontana Polygram Records is a feast for guitar fans. The first single, "I Don't Know Why I Love You," is a brooding but explosive mood piece, characteristic of the British pop band. "I think the '90s are going to be a really positive decade, and we're going to be a part of that," says lead singer Guy Chadwick. The band's compelling lyrics and massive guitar sound is sure to take The House Of Love far beyond their cult status.

Picks

The House Of Love

In addition to the creative house and rap music ushering in the new decade, 1990 also brings a return of great pop bands with new releases by the Chills, Lush, Blue Aeroplanes and The House Of Love. Picking up on college radio where their Relativity debut left off, this record should catapult The House Of Love to the top of college and commercial radio charts and onto the turntable of anyone with a passion or soft spot for a guitar rush, superb songcraft and Guy Chadwick's poignant, poetically adept/sappy (your mood will decide) lyrics and vocals. You'll hear the Velvet Underground influence, the moodiness and guitar power of early Bunny-men and occasionally the guitar sensibility of My Bloody Valentine. The interplay of elements makes the songs sound great: the constant movement, the peaks and valleys, the way the guitars start gently, build slowly, and then explode into a shimmering bluster of chords that overwhelms both the song and the listener. "I Don't Know Why I Love You", "Hannah" (so whose sky is it, Guy?) and the redone version of their first single, "Shine On" will grab you immediately, but there's a lot here to come back to — almost the entire LP. "Se Dest" is a graceful shimmy splattered with bursts of guitar. "Never" is a good song too, once (if) you get beyond the lyrics. Listen to "The Beatles And The Stones" on a rainy afternoon by yourself. This whole album has a Spring rain kind of feel to it, making the timing perfect for one of early 1990's freshest sounding releases.

Jane Rupert

The House Of Love

Mercury/Polygram

