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The House of Love
The House of Love
Phonogram Records

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After much study of the state of post-punk rock/pop in these pages over the last few weeks, two albums turn up this week



The Blue Aeroplanes
Swagger
Chrysalis Records

from bands more than adequate to contend for the crown as rulers of that much-contested monarchy.

While many resist the temptation of the contemporary — preferring instead to reside with the legacy of Echo and the Bunnymen and as be-all and end-all purveyors of the sexy-pop stance, dismissing all new offerings as secondary — Blue Aeroplanes' *Swagger* and House Of Love's *The House of Love* arrive to craft some of the most refreshingly stylized pop of recent times. Adequate proof that the idea of the pop/punk combo — defined for all in the '60s by the Velvet Underground — is still alive and well.

The House Of Love are clear descendants from the Velvets/T. Rex realm of sassy, stylized pop — the type of guitar-oriented per-

fection that makes you rush out and form a band. Guy Chadwick and the rest of his buddies inhabiting the House of Love probably sounded out their first musical indulgences after such a staple diet. The result for the listeners on this, their second album, enralls, as does their equally titled 1988 debut.

Against a background of hauntingly evocative guitar patterns, Chadwick spins many an interesting tale of love lost and love regained, of hedonism and of selfish blindness. Most unusual but surprisingly effective is Chadwick's homage to some of his heroes in "Beatles and the Stones," a cut on which he recalls a time in musical history when the

voice of pop was strong enough to affect society in a challenging manner instead of allowing society to define pop's own idea of what was challenging. Sound familiar?

With such an approach, the House of Love continues in its rapid bloom, and it's little wonder that the album cover displays a strikingly colorful butterfly — a suitable depiction of their rapid maturity.

But, while the House of Love bloom contentedly, the Blue Aeroplanes simply soar.

Swagger is the perfect title to describe their effortless tran-

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