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House of Love group sounds good, maybe

By Tim Taber
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The House Of Love sounded good and sometimes impressive in their sold out show at the Roxy Theater in Hollywood last Friday, but over all they really weren't better than any good local band.

Lead singer Guy Chadwick has a boyish old man look about him. One fan said he looked like E.T. Really the band doesn't look that great on stage. However, one thing that is appealing about them is their music.

Chadwick doesn't really have a great voice. True he has a good range, but sometimes his notes just aren't right on. In a way, the fact that he doesn't hit everything right on lends to the bands mysterious guitar driven sound.

The House Of Love can be quite accurately described as an "alternative rock band." Chadwick's vocals are sometimes low and groany like Peter Murphy

while at other times they are high and strong like old Echo and the Bunnymen. His vocals are layered on top of dense echoey guitar parts, and constantly changing rhythms.

High points of the night included the band's current hits 'Shine On' and 'I Don't Know Why I love You' as well as 'Christine' which originally broke the band onto American radio. The band was perhaps most impressive on their two closing encores, 'Destroy The Heart' and 'Love In A Car'.

On those two songs the band showed more energy and raw emotion than at any other time during the show. If the band's whole show had had the feel of the shows closing songs, The House of Love could have been considered a great live band. Instead, most of the concert was filled with interesting, but non-entertaining music. Overall, the band and the concert were average.