



House of Love (from left): Evans, Chadwick, Groothuizen and Walker

House of Love

A cocksure guitarist steers the London band's course

FOUR YEARS AFTER ITS FORMATION, England's House of Love finds itself the most acclaimed guitar band in a country deep in the throes of a house-music phenomenon. "When we came out in '86, the last thing anybody wanted was a proficient rock band," says House of Love singer and guitarist Guy Chadwick. "But I think we could be a very, very big band because we don't fit in."

Despite nearly unanimous critical acclaim for the London band's 1988 debut album, *The House of Love*, recording sessions for the group's current album, also titled *The House of Love*, proved difficult. Chadwick says the band was hampered by a lack of preparation and by infighting, and the ultimate results have been bitter-sweet. Like its predecessor, the new album has garnered rave reviews, but the band (which also includes drummer Peter Evans and bassist Chris Groothuizen) fired original guitarist Terry Bickers, replacing him with Simon Walker. "Losing Terry was more difficult spiritually than technically," says Chadwick. "When we first started, it was always the four of us against the world."

On House of Love's latest album, guitars shiver with a murky resonance reminiscent of Chadwick's musical mentors U2 and the Cure. The lyrics, delivered in Chadwick's deadpan vocal style, juxtapose introspective tales of love gone sour with love renewed. "I'm definitely really into the idea of making huge emotional sweeps," he says. "It creates depth."

House of Love rarely pays tribute to

its musical brethren. On the song "Beatles and the Stones," Chadwick dismisses the notion that those rock giants effected any significant change in the world. And he also scoffs at critical comparisons to artists like Echo and the Bunnymen, Lloyd Cole and the Tear-drop Explodes. "I've never felt any empathy with the contemporary bands that we've been around," he says. "I've accepted the fact that people will say that, but I don't see it."

So Chadwick's spirit and devotion remain undaunted. "I'm deeply proud of everything we've done," he says. "I just think we're a brilliant band." — CHRIS MUNDY