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THE HOUSE OF LOVEThe House Of Love

(Fontana) 788 0

Guy Chadwick of THOL has plenty of reason to be wary of breaking his band in America. He's got a great-big country of empty-headed yanks to convert. Not an easy task for a band that doesn't fit the constraints of "Z," "B," and "power rock" radio. Fortunately, THOL has a brilliant LP and live show to supplement their plan.

The House Of Love is brimming with perfect pop songs. Guitars and concise, hook-filled melodies reign supreme on the entire affair, with "I Don't Know Why I Love You" and "Beatles & The Stones" leading the way. The latter is especially intriguing, considering how many old-timers may come out of the woodwork to buy this LP to see what is exactly said about their faves in the contents of the song. Fans of guitar solos won't find Chadwick's condensed writing style very attractive, though, "Shine On" and "Never" stress the song rather than the flash in the hand.

Considering the extreme duress the band was under while the LP was being made (it was almost a year late), THOL is a real triumph. Touted as the U.K. band of the year in '88, Chadwick and THOL prove they have staying power. Whether they have the selling power is up to a word-of-mouth campaign.

-John Vernon

Appearing: June 2 at Cabaret Metro