

NEW DIRECTION

ANN ARBOR, MI

NOV. '89 - MAY '90

Nov '89 → May '90

8.

# Nicks Picks

Reviews in no particular order...

A lot of people have asked me why I don't "trash" bands from time to time and only write about bands which I'm a fan of. First off, I have no desire whatsoever to write a well rounded, diverse magazine that caters to many music genres. I have very specific tastes and the purpose of New Direction is to recommend bands to people with similar likes to mine. I could have very easily written three times as many bad reviews as good. I hate 80% of what I do hear but I'd much rather promote what I love. Besides Life's too short to sit around listening to records you don't like, let alone write about them...

## THE HOUSE OF LOVE-Fontana LP (Fontana/Polygram)

Much much better than 1988's very good self-titled debut. While that first record was more immediate with its catchy hard guitar sound; Fontana is much stronger over the long haul. Having fired first LP guitarist, Terry Bikers, the House of Love's strengths are now quiet textures and detailed arrangements as opposed to a more simple guitar pop approach. Fontana is an interesting affair as many different song styles are weaved together into one remarkable LP. "Hannah" opens in a similar manner to the Stone Roses "I Wanna be Adored" with its build up and psychedelic bursts before growing into a remix of 1988's debut single "Shine On". The mood then turns lush on the atmospheric "Beatles and the Stones", a tribute to the two 60's legends ("The Beatles and the Stones made it good to be alone..."). This pattern continues throughout: upfront catchy tracks such as "I don't know why I love you", "Shake and Crawl" and "Never" are mixed in with tender ballads like "Blind" and "Someone's Got to Love You". An ingenious record- and one that deserves repeated play. As we enter a new decade that is crying out for new bands to replace departed giants such as Echo and the Bunnymen and the Smiths; the House of Love's Fontana is a most welcome addition. The best LP of 1990 thus far.