

HOUSE OF LOVE

ALBUMS



PREVIEW: MUSIC

House Of Love: 'Fontana'

Fontana

In January 1989, House Of Love were on the cover of *NME* and, along with The Wonderstuff and Darling Buds, were touted the year's brightest hopes. Since then, the mire of disinterest through which Guy Chadwick has had to drag his post-psychedelic rock band has looked to get the better of them. But 'Fontana' is fresh and energetic, opening with 'Hanah', a lanky anthem that sways with a Doors-like moodiness. In songs like 'The Beatles And The Stones' and the sensual 'Shake And Crawl' the band leave space for real movement, Chadwick's lonely voice proving enough to send any self-respecting depressive over London Bridge with a large rock round her neck. This second album firmly establishes House Of Love as one of Britain's greatest rock bands. Deliciously retrospective as they might be in their more Stonesy moments, their music-making has matured beyond the self-conscious bedroom gloom of their debut album into a slick collection of songs that pass from shuffling contemplation to raunchy cheek with thrilling confidence. Pleasure and pain never worked so wonderfully together.

Laura Lee Davies

Time out
21.290