

House of Love

Tunes  
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## ALBUMS

David Sinclair

**The House Of Love: Fontana**  
(Fontana 842 293-1)

Of the current wave of Indie bands breaking through to mainstream success, none has promised more and few have promised it for longer than The House Of Love.

Since their 1987 success single, "Shine On", the band, led by singer and songwriter Guy Chadwick, has maintained a disorganized front. Surprisingly, perhaps, all has come right, and with a re-recorded version of "Shine On" not long departed from the Top 20, their second album *Fontana* at last emerges.

It is a low-key cracker that amply showcases Chadwick's abilities as a singer and songwriter with an alert, modern bent, but tempered by a mild fixation on the *Beggar's Banquet* era.

"Hedonist" is the most obvious musical reference to the truculent Stones swagger, its clouded lyric partly a celebration of anti-social self-reliance. There is even a song called "Beatles and the Stones" recalling old playground rivalries.

The chorus of "Shine On" still induces an involuntary shiver of delight, harnessing gentle melodies to rhythm tracks of deceptive force. Chadwick's triumph is to have produced such swirling, dreamy songs that combine outstanding textural beauty with a firmly directed contemporary rock 'n' roll touch.