

# THE HOUSE OF LOVE

## ALBUMS

EDITED BY JOHNNY DEE

### LP REVIEWS

### ALBUM OF THE WEEK

**THE HOUSE OF LOVE: Fontana.** Fontana. 842 293. The group's major label debut, after a spell with Creation, is a neat combination of tracks old and new that gears HOL up for a great future. Unlike their debut LP, the songs breathe a little more freely and the distinctive guitarwork is particularly fluid. As the album weaves its way from swirling guitar pop to delicately crafted gentler moments, the listener cannot fail to get wrapped up in the whole thing. One to cherish.

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### THE HOUSE OF LOVE 'Fontana'

FONTANA

It's been a long time coming,

recorded and scrapped altogether once, but now Guy Chadwick's vision of a great rock LP to introduce his band to a wider audience is realised. No band credits on the sleeve, reflecting perhaps the internal ructions which grew during its recording and ultimately led to the departure of tasteful axe murderer Terry Bickers.

The sign of a truly, or potentially, great rock band remains the mastery of the slow song. Sure, 'Shine On' and 'I Don't Know Why I Love You' were given their crack at the singles charts, but longevity demands more than a willingness to crank up the dynamics.

Take the stark clarity of 'Someone's Got To Love You' or the gentle ramble of 'Beatles And The Stones', which actually owes more to The Velvets than Chadwick's heroes of the title.

Every noise on 'Fontana' sounds worth all the time and trouble taken to record it. Guitars are caressed or kicked into action and captured with great attention to detail. Drums are brushed and hammered with equal success.

But don't despair you rock animals. The House Of Love still have some great riffs in the armoury, notably '32nd Floor', which is already raising the nation's more illustrious roofs. Only quibble here is Chadwick's lyrics, which will have the leisurely listener scratching for clues after a read through the lyric sheet. It's a shame, but not a major stumbling block.

These songs have a spirit and an inbuilt acknowledgement of their place in rock history that will see the band through increasingly successful years providing they embrace the opportunity they already have. ■■■■½ **Andy Strickland**

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