Gabba Gabba

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House of Love spreads some around

Within six years of its formation, **The House of Love** has earned the singular distinction of breathing new life into the British rock scene. With music heavily influenced by '60s psychedelia and lyrics rooted in literary stream of consciousness (the name of the band is taken from the title of an Anais Nin book), The House of Love has a huge following in U.S. alternative circles. (They're not as well-known as in their native Britain.)

The House of Love will be in Rochester on Sunday, October 25, at the **Horizontal Boogie Bar** as part of a Spin Magazine/Fontana Records tour, featuring fellow Fontana artists **Catherine Wheel** and **Ocean Colour Scene.**

Guy Chadwick, lead singer and songwriter for The House of Love, thinks the idea of touring with other artists on the label is a great idea. "I think it's going to work really well," Chadwick says on the phone from Madrid where the band is finishing up their own European tour.

In Europe, Catherine Wheel is opening for them, but will co-headline the Spin/Fontana tour with The House of Love. Chadwick doesn't foresee any problems with this. "The bands work really well together. We get on really well," he says. "It was really the best tour that we came up with. We wanted to tour the States, and we wanted to be involved in a package which was a good value." In other words, Fontana won't have particularly high expenses promoting three of their bands who have just released new albums.

Spin Magazine's sponsorship of the tour helps financially as well. Ocean Colour Scene, which has just released its debut album, will do the support honors on the tour. Catherine Wheel is promoting its new album, *Ferment*, while The House of Love is touring upon the release of its new album, *Babe Rainbow*.

The House of Love was the last chance for 36- year-old Guy Chadwick. "I didn't start the group until I was 30." he says. "I knew either this band was going to work or I was just going to find something else to do, and fortunately, I got it right."

Before forming the band, Chadwick was a solo artist with RCA, a short-lived relationship that ended when the label dropped him from their roster. "That was at the point when I thought, 'Well that's it, I should just knock it on the head.' And then I was writing what turned out to be important songs for The House of Love, and I had very strong ideas about how it should all sound."



The House of Love: At HBB October 25.

NIGHT SPOTS
Natalie Hewitt

From there, Chadwick went about finding other musicians and recording the songs. "It was pretty much an intellectual process. It wasn't like 17-year-old kids forming a band at school. It was something I thought out and decided on most details on how it should come across." That's quite a lot to have accomplished in a short 6 years. "Yeah, well I think so," he agrees proudly.

As far as Chadwick is concerned, The House of love has never been better. Their last tour of North America in 1990 nearly broke up the band, and Chadwick still sounds upset over those performances. "I didn't enjoy it very much," he says. "I wasn't very happy with the way the group sounded at the time, and I thought we should have been better. We're a lot better now. It's a really good group now."

The House of Love is touring in promotion of their new album *Babe Rainbow* (the title is taken from the Peter Blake painting hanging in Pete Townsend's studio where their first album was recorded). "I think the *Babe Rainbow* album is much better," Chadwick says, comparing the new work to the 1990 album, commonly known as the *Fontana* album. "It's more consistent. It has a very different sound to it. The playing is much better. It's more powerful and more eclectic."