The House Of Love

"This cry you hear is the wisdom on the cusp within the soul." ***THE HOUSE OF LOVE***
Babe Rainbow

"To me, that was the ultimate nonsense I could have possibly written about myself."
Guy Chadwick

Since being formed as a five-piece outfit nearly six years ago in Camberwall, South London, **THE HOUSE OF LOVE** have become one of the pre-eminent guitar bands in the U.K., with several British indie hits, including *"Shine On"* and *"Christine."* Led by singer/guitarist/songwriter and self-described megalomaniac Guy Chadwick, the now-four-member group takes its name from an erotic novel by French author Anais Nin and its jangling, brooding, uplifting, psychedelic, cinematic canvas from the classic Brit pop-rock tradition, starting with the Beatles and the Stones, going through the early '80s post-punk renaissance which produced U2, the Smiths, the Cure, Joy Division, Public Image, Echo & the Bunnymen, Depeche Mode and Teardrop Explodes, right up to today's indie guitar-rock revival, which many credit to **THE HOUSE OF LOVE**'s influence. And while they emerged from Alan McGee's renowned Creation Records stable, which has produced such sonic noise generators as My Bloody Valentine, Primal Scream, Ride and Jesus & Mary Chain, **THE HOUSE OF LOVE** prefer a more tuneful, neo-classical bent.

The eagerly anticipated Babe Rainbow, their second full-length album (third if you count *A Spy In The House of Love*, last year's compilation of B-sides and rare tracks), is well worth the wait. Produced by Warne Livesey (The The, Midnight Oil) and mixed by Tim Palmer (James, The Mission UK, Mother Love Bone), it is the lushest, fullest, most melodic batch of songs to date from the band, and one destined to conquer America as the band has previously conquered the U.K. and Europe.

"I hope so," says Chadwick about Stateside success. "America is the most important place in the world for music and probably has been for the last 50-60 years. The one thing I do believe is that Americans, more so than anywhere else in the world, like good tunes."

And they'll find plenty of them on Babe Rainbow, which takes its name from the Peter Blake painting hanging at Pete Townsend's Eel Pie Studios in Twickenham, England, where the group recorded their first album. From the first U.K. hit single, *"Feel,"* which Chadwick describes as an impassioned plea against suicide ("A raging fire that says, 'see me' and that says 'I need to feel the love'") to the psychedelic raga-rock of *"Cruel,"* which sounds like a combination of *"Within You Without You"* and "Satanic Majesty's Request," from the sarcastic love song *"Sometimes You Crush Me,"* to the tender intimacy of the ballads *"Fade Away"* and *"Your Eyes,"* Babe Rainbow finally captures