65-69
White Lion Street,
London, N1 9PR

Telephone
020 7 833 9303
Facsimile
020 7 833 9322

Email julie/joe/james
@nine-pr.demon.co.uk

The House Of Love

The Creation Recordings 1986-1988

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Every so often a band emerges that is spectacularly and emphatically just right for its time. A band that inspires and reveals. A band that transcends cheap categorisation to claim a special place in the affections of a diverse and devoted audience. The House Of Love were one such band.

What forged such a reputation for The House Of Love was the band's early work for Creation Records, including their seminal and self-produced eponymous debut album. Released in May '88, 'The House Of Love' sold 40,000 copies in Britain alone and was hailed as the most extraordinary debut since 'The Smiths' by everyone from NME to John Peel.

The House Of Love's music was rooted in the driving guitars of singer-guitarist Guy Chadwick and lead guitarist Terry Bickers. It was a sensual sound that hovered serenely above the shuffle and hum of the rhythm section, veering from monstrous walls of cascading chords to more deft and subtle shadings. Guy Chadwick described the uniqueness of the sound at the time: "For us, it's got to be this shimmering throb. It's got to go on and on. There has to be things coming out of it at every angle".

Their songs brim with big, bold metaphors. Soul-stirring images of God and religion jostle with those of love and sex to shed some light on the dark, obscure corners of a bedroom boy's introspection. Far from being gloomy or indulgent, however, this intense and often angst-ridden lyricism possesses a wonderful vitality that few bands, independent or otherwise, could match.

'The House Of Love: The Creation Years 1986-1988' contains all of their best work from this era, including the whole of the debut album. Also included are 11 tracks that made up an import released by Rough Trade Germany in '87. The group may have split for good in '93, after a tempestuous few years, but this collection clearly determines a truly special rock band.

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For further information/discography, please call Joe on 0207 833 9303