



Kate Walsh Peppermint Radio * * * * *

Kate Walsh produces the kind of creamy vocal melody that is on par with the likes of Bic Runga and Tori Amos. Peppermint Radio is a covers album containing 11 some might say ambitious tracks with covers ranging from the likes of The Cure, Duran Duran and Eurhythmics. Although I thoroughly enjoyed the musical arrangement of this album, I felt she played it a bit too safe with the piano/soft vocals combination. I reckon she could have taken this lovely collection of songs to a different level. Saying this I am a sucker for a double bass/piano accompaniment.

Her rendition of "Subterranean Homesick Alien" (Radiohead) is a slow breathy number, instantly recognisable with a twist. My personal favourite was the Erasure number where she purrs the lyrics of "A Little Respect" accompanied by piano and a seductive swagger that is noted throughout the album. Kate handpicked the songs that have influenced her career over the years and made them her own. Her music has featured on the likes of the popular TV series "Greys Anatomy" and in the 2008 film "Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging." She is also no stranger to Irish television performing on "The Late Late Show" and "Other Voices".

To date, Ms. Walsh has had six sold out shows in The Royal Albert hall with none other than Mark Knopfler, so keep an ear out for this songstress. Album release Sept 10th 2010 with a national tour to follow.



Terence Rowlands Beta * * * * * / *Sorry Bud*

Terence Rowlands first appeared on the Irish music scene in 2004. With a three track demo under his belt he gained a lot of unexpected attention and radio air time. According to the man himself "It was too much, too soon". His Debut album "Beta" apparently took four years to complete on a very small budget. Although I find the blood sweat and tears he put into this project admirable, I found the album as a whole, quite monotonous. From his bio, I read that his inspirations are the Counting Crows and Damien Rice. Seeing as I find said artists painfully "try hardy" it didn't come as much of a shock that I didn't enjoy "Beta" as much as I thought I would. It sounded to me as if he was trying to appeal to the mainstream through imitation, rather than taking the plunge and recording something original.

"Overplayed", the first song on the album, drew me in with its slow acoustic vibe and piano sound, coupled with his velvety smooth voice filled with emotion and heart. Travelling further into the album, its grip on me started to loosen at an alarming rate. In fact, by the time I got to "Something unknown" track three on the album, I already knew I had heard the best of "Beta".

To be frank, I would love to hear him singing these songs after a few whiskeys. They lack the kick in the arse they deserve. It was Oscar Wilde who once said "Music is the art which is most nigh to tears and memory". Suffice it to say, my only memory of this album will be that it is a Damien Rice album.

Windings /Old like J * * * * *

Vertigo Smyth /The Armada song * * * * *

Limerick Label "Out on a limb" have released a right gem. Its a split 7" single from Windings and Vertigo Smyth. The only thing I am upset by when it comes to this cd is that there are only 2 tracks on it. Four minutes of absolute indie/folk perfection. It opens with a little acoustic number from Windings. The simple clear vocals are a perfect accompaniment to the musical arrangement. Real soul food, warm and hearty. Vertigo Smyths Armada song, was an instant thumbs up.

A sombre sounding number, a voice, reminiscent to the likes of Jarvis cocker and Neil Hannon. The music on this track is a prime example of Vertigo Smyths work, simple folk music with a modern spin.

There is a great sense of hard work gone into both tracks and the proof is in the pudding. Simply perfect. Big thanks to the Clare County Council for supporting our local arts.

