



Thick and Thin

Little Palace - Car

Little Palace have been described as one of the most 'exciting prospects to emerge from the Irish Music scene for the last couple of years'. Unfortunately a lot of crap bands have been described as the latter. Little Palace, if they are one of the most exciting acts to emerge in Ireland, have failed to do so on this single. Car opens with the beautiful angelic vocals of Ann-Louise Mulvany and progresses to a cock rock ballad with your normal run of the mill constrained lead guitar solo. Mary Black fans will probably love this one. The remaining two offerings, 'Puppet Show' and 'Lately Now' lack pace are worthless and pure annoying. To be honest, whatever beings voted this band as the best new band at the Celtic festival in Paris must have had no ears or little sense of taste. Little Palace's 'Car' proves that they are just another band claiming to be the next best thing from Ireland. Please get a life!



Dermot Crean reviews the Hitchers playing the Stables Club in UL.

Tuesday night in the Stables is not the most auspicious time for the Hitchers to attempt to impress. There is a large crowd present but unfortunately they are not drunk and as everyone knows, sobriety and punk rock are incompatible. The result is a muted crowd and frustrated band. The Hitchers to their credit, perform well. Their set comprises mainly of material from their debut "It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye"-still the best album title of the year. Tracks like "On and On" and "Strachan" are greeted with half hearted applause which, on one occasion prompts drummer, Niall Quinn to remind the audience that they had finished a song.

There is a flicker of recognition when the band launch into the single "Killed it with my bare hands", three minutes of pop excellence which sounds like Supergrass and the Ramones mixing sonic cocktails. "Aryan Beach Party" is another two minute adrenaline rush, all buzzsaw guitars and manic drumming. The Hitchers songs never outstay their welcome since every track clocks in at under three minutes. The problem however is that they end up sounding a little like a Ramones tribute band such is the limited scope of punk music. A rethink in the songwriting department might be needed.

A chuckle is raised when they close with a reworking of the ABBA song "Mama Mia" but by this time the crowd are disinterested and the only pogoing is being done onstage by the bassist. The Hitchers would be more suited to playing late on a Thursday night rather than tonight where by the end of the gig the venue is not unlike the personality of a supermodel- vacant, dim and wet.



Local band, Veneer have been making their mark on the Dublin scene over the last number of weeks. Building on their success in the Heineken Green Energy Weekender last summer when the band came second in the festival's bands competition. There then followed many excellent reviews by the national media with journalists proclaiming them as the best performance of the festival. Rumours were abound for months after of big names approaching the bands Independent record company, Tilted records. Two weeks ago the band played the first of a number of gigs in Eamon Dorans in Dublin's Temple Bar. A few hundred people turned out to see the band's new material that has been played on the nation's airwaves over the last number of weeks. Reports from the gig said that the band went down well on the night with a few hundred people in attendance. Veneer management plan to increase their presence in Dublin and word is that they will be playing Dublin again in the next number of weeks. Veneer have been recording over the summer months and have released a number of copies of their new material radio stations around the country.