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DEMO DESK THE CULT

'Whats to say' is the title track of a four-track demo from five piece 'The Cult', and whats to say about these guys is that they've got a pretty addictive sound that takes just a bit if getting used to.

The opening track is a grower. On first listen it does sound a little off beat and mistimed, but it sounds more impressive on every listen and vocalist Eoin Rothery has one of those instantly recognisable voices. The underlying guitar rhythm sticks in the memory and makes up for the lack of lyrical depth.

The other tracks are different to say the least. 'Yeats was a punk' is an o.k. attempt at punk rock, sounding a little like The Undertones in places. 'P.T.O.' is rather in the same vein as 'Whats to say' while the final track 'The Future' is perhaps the best track with Rothery's vocal range been tested to the full. However the lyrics are a bit dodgy, and 'The Cult' would do well to stay clear of lines like "I'm so sorry for been so pissed".

Overall, 'The Cult' have got something going on. This demo could have been a bit more creatively packaged, and the lyrics could be better, but the guitar works great and the rhythms memorable, and that can be enough to get some attention. (7/10)

NEW RELEASES

THE CROCKETTS — Flower Girl

A bit mad is the best way to describe the third single by Welsh band 'The Crocketts'. Never has a song sounded like so many other records and managed to maintain a formula that gives a start and an ending.

Fronted by Dublin born Davey Crockett (the other band members are Richard Turpin, Dan Boone and Owen Cash), they take their influences from all over the shop, and traces of the Gypsy Kings, Kurt Cobain and Van Morrison and most notably Pavement are clear on 'Flower Girl'. Its chorus would not sound out of place on Barney, and listening to the song you just don't know where its going to go next.

In an age when bands are slated for relying too heavily on their influences, The Crocketts almost pull the piss by using all their influences in just one track.

The b-sides are impressive, the pick of them being "Mrs Donnelly", which is a lot more radio freindly than the single itself and is very like Wisconsin's finest "The Violent Femmes".

Having won a single of the week in Melody Maker last year, The Crocketts have been getting attention thanks to their brand of obscure rhythms. This is a track that people will love or hate. It will either sound like a muddled mess or ingeniously innovative. (7/10)

No Silence in One Minute Silence

In recent years Ireland has been hailed for if many different styles and taste in music, but as yet we have to hail a band in the heavy / speed metal genre as one of our own until now.

'One Minute Silence' are a London based band but are fronted by a Tipp man called Brian Barry, who on his best moments on their debut album 'Available in all Colours' could be mistaken for a young Zac de La Rocha..

The album is an 'onslaught of gargantuan metalloid riffs and hypnotic hip-hop rhythms' which is attempting to fill the void left in rap metal since Rage against the machine last album 'Evil Empire', and it has to be said it does this rather well, with Red Hot Chili Peppers influence also recognisable on tracks such as 'Remain Calm' and 'South Central' (the bands first single which indicates Barry's background, "its along, long, way to Tipperary, South Central Tipperary").

Lets get this straight, if you haven't heard of the likes of

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RATM of Limp Bizkit then don't touch this album with a barge pole. Bands like 'One Minute Silence' don't intend to impress the majority, they intend to make a clear impression of their intense angst and disgust, lets us all know we're screwed (the F word is a very popular word on the album).

Their songs all have a meaning, like the opening track 'New Dogs, Old Tricks' which is clearly about the Northern Ireland Troubles, "Black the scene, the gold, the white, the green, lowered the flag for the dream, but in some eyes for a gleam". Its clear in Barry's declaratory vocals that they mean what they sing, were not talking about 'you're the air that I breathe, your all that I need' stuff, this is energetic, rebellious music with a clear intent.

Ironically though, I feel most of the fans of this type of music miss the point of it all and just love it because its loud, abrasive, in your face, and pisses people off.

Listen, if this is your music, then make sure you get this album. 'One Minute Silence' have been making waves in England, supporting bands like Clawfinger and 'The Deftones', and it won't be long for their on the cover of KERRANG. (7/10)

breaking up is easy to do.....



All good things must come to an end but surely not so soon. "Strauss" have been together a little more than a year but the original foursome are soon to be no more.

Their live gigs around the city over the last 12 months have impressed many and their split will come as something of a surprise. Lead singer Andrew Mooney informed me that bass player Lydia Cagney was unable to commit to the band as she was relocating to Dublin and lead guitarist Brian Mulcahy has also decided to call it a day.

They around their split at their Baker Place gig on June 11th where they played their usual energetic and violent live set with songs like "So many souls" and "Diamond eyes" still sounding as good as ever. Mooney also told me that himself and drummer Chris Madden intend to stay together in some format and the name "Strauss" will not disappear totally. "The live Limerick scene is buzzin at the moment and myself and Chris still hope to be part of it in the coming months"

Make no mistake we haven't heard the last of Andrew Mooney or "Strauss" whose distinctive sound is sure to be heard soon, somewhere.



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