
Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 01-04-2008 11:45

'Black Cat', the opening track from their forthcoming album 'Velocifero', is now on their Myspace page.

It kind of does the job, without being exceptional.

The album cover:

<http://www.ladytron.com/images/album.jpg>

Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 01-04-2008 14:56

Haven't heard the track yet (I think) but that cover is disgusting!

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 01-04-2008 15:17

God, that is vile. Is it, you know, ironic, do you think?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by linus - 01-04-2008 18:54

I really like Ladytron, but "Black Cat" sucks. Hopefully that's not the best track on the album and something like Blur's "Girl and Boys", a lowest common denominator hit on a pretty good album.

"Black Cat" seems somewhat inspired by Broadcast's song with the same name, and it's another one of those drony flat electronica songs that seem to be based on the concept of Mira's Bulgarian lyrics being cool, as seen in "Fighting in Built Up Areas".

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Max Payne - 01-04-2008 19:52

Eww that cover is rotten. Especially compared to the last one.

Black Cat track does nothing for me. Ladytron are like the Star Trek Movies. Loved their First LP, second was very patchy. Third (Witching Hour) great and maybe fourth....not so great.

I mean obviously the other way round to the Star Treks but you get my drift

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Disney Girl Does Dulwich - 02-04-2008 09:38

I don't mind that cover. I thought the last one for Witching Hour was slightly odd given the actual music. Don't mind that track either...will reserve further judgement until I can hear the whole thing.

When is it out?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 02-04-2008 09:57

The album's out in June.

"Black Cat" is indeed just another "Fighting In Built Up Areas" (which I love, by the way), i.e. an excuse for Mira to speak some Bulgarian over some noise. It's not going to be the single.

I can't wait to hear this. I'm more excited about the new Ladytron than I've been about any other album for a long long time.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 02-04-2008 10:05

Slightly underwhelming as 'Black Cat' is, I'm not that bothered. 'Light and Magic' takes a few tracks to get into its stride and it's their best album.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Andy C - 02-04-2008 10:07

I've nothing against the cover artwork either. As far as I'm concerned, it introduces its contents quite well.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 02-04-2008 10:08

The London gig is in a little over a month now, I think. Will I be seeing any of you there?

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 02-04-2008 10:32

Oh, I think I might wander along.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-04-2008 09:47

I am listening to Velocifero as we speak. Oh my, it's rather good.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-04-2008 11:01

I'm on my second listen, and one of the songs seems to be going on about "stateless Jews".

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Squid Ink - 09-04-2008 02:44

I'm really looking forward to hearing the album. Is the 'stateless Jews' track a Mira song? She is Jewish.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 09-04-2008 09:14

You know, there's always a chance that I'm mishearing it.

When I was a kid, a mate of mine thought that the Sex Pistols' "(I'm Not Your) Stepping Stone" had a bit that went "You won't find me in your fridge of Jews!"

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Max Payne - 11-04-2008 15:12

Velocifero has leaked.

SR is right. Who was I to ever doubt them? First listen as I type. I'm up to Runaway. This is damned good stuff. Not as clean and clinical sounding as Witching Hour. Harking back to 604 a little I reckon which isn't a bad thing. I've got a feeling this'll grow on me a lot.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Max Payne - 11-04-2008 15:20

Track 6 "Burning up" is a monster, by the way.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by linus - 14-04-2008 07:45

Impressions on the first listen:

"Burning Up" sounds really good, passes the first listen test with flying colors. Cold dark tone with plenty of bright sparkles. Good stuff, the kind of song that will compell you to put your scotch down and sift through the crowd onto the dance floor.

<http://hypem.com/search/ladytron/1/>

The blog I've originally linked (a horrible music blog, with crap like Mariah Carey and Lindsey Lohan) has pulled the Burning Up mp3 (that was fast), but you can still hear it on this Hype link above.

"The Lovers" is not very good, it sounds like a weaker take on the excellent "Jet Age".

"I'm Not Scared" sounds very good though, it has that nice Ladytron bridge leading to their trademark beautiful melodic vocal inflections.

"Season of Illusions" is a piece where unaltered vocals dominate with backup vocals bridges, giving it has a vague early 80s Strawberry Switchblade or Siouxsie feel.

"Ghosts" has more of a end-of-the-80s shoegazer gloss cut with a slower beat, building up with fuzzy guitar and dreamy drawn out vocals, but much like for "Seasons of Illusions", the song and melody carrying all this aren't strong enough to pull it off.

My early verdict after listening to half the songs on Velocifero is that it clearly is not their best CD, but it is one that Ladytron fans will enjoy.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 15-04-2008 13:08

I'm listening to it at work now. Who's the guest vocalist on the last track?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 23-04-2008 14:16

Having listened to Velocifero a few times now, I can't do much more that agree with linus' comments. The band seem to be on autopilot for too much of the album, making a sound that doesn't vary a great deal from track to track. The analogue synths hum and scream in a very stentorian fashion, and the rhythms thud away uncompromisingly, but the problem is that too often, everything is cranked up and the songs don't have any space. Which is why my favourite track is the stripped-down 'Predict the Day', although even that suffers from an overwrought crescendo of electric guitar riffs at the end.

Still, even Ladytron on autopilot are ahead of the pack, and despite its shortcomings, the album's a thing to be enjoyed.

Verdict: Absorbing.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 23-04-2008 23:31

I was thinking of wandering along meself. Possibly with Wyattetta.

The cover is partly a Revolver homage, no?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 14:35

And another thing (I am honestly not trying to bash the 'Tron, despite appearances to the contrary) - I know they're all about aloof, sophisticated gothic chic these days, but what happened to the playful sense of humour the displayed on early tracks like Paco! and Commodore Rock? I really enjoyed that. I mean, there's a thin line between aloof and po-faced.

Oh, and an ancillary question: what was the name of the genre that spawned trashy, cut n' sample tracks like Commodore Rock? I'm sure bands like Ladytron and Add N To (X) were lumped under the same monicker.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 14-05-2008 09:05

So...

SR - fancy meeting up for a pre-gig drink tomorrow, or are you already all booked up? No worries if not - I'll only be in town from about 7:30 anyway and I quite fancy catching Datarock too. (I presume they're still the support act? Are there any others on the bill tomorrow, d'ya know?)

Anyhow, either PM or text me if you're up for it, old chap.

Mumpo - are you talking about 8-bit/'chipstyle', by any chance? If so, I can furnish you with a ton of that kind of stuff. If you're not, then I'm slightly confused! Is there another electropop subgenre that has passed me by?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by King Mob - 14-05-2008 09:09

Yeah, Clive, I was thinking that was it, but some foggy recess of my mind was telling me it went by another name in some quarters.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 14-05-2008 09:23

evilC wrote:

So...

SR - fancy meeting up for a pre-gig drink tomorrow, or are you already all booked up? No worries if not - I'll only be in town from about 7:30 anyway and I quite fancy catching Datarock too. (I presume they're still the support act? Are there any others on the bill tomorrow, d'ya know?)

Anyhow, either PM or text me if you're up for it, old chap.

Well, I was originally toying with the idea of joining tomorrow night's OTFathon (see World), but it's being held in some sort of German beer festival in Vauxhall, which is far out of my way (both culturally and geographically), so instead I think I'm just going to roll up shortly before 'Tron time with Mrs Rhino in tow. (Come and say hello if you see us. I'm sure you'll be able to spot me in the crowd...)

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 14-05-2008 09:27

King Mob wrote:

And another thing (I am honestly not trying to bash the 'Tron, despite appearances to the contrary) - I know they're all about aloof, sophisticated gothic chic these days, but what happened to the playful sense of humour the displayed on early tracks like Paco! and Commodore Rock? I really enjoyed that. I mean, there's a thin line between aloof and po-faced.

Oh, and an ancillary question: what was the name of the genre that spawned trashy, cut n' sample tracks like Commodore Rock? I'm sure bands like Ladytron and Add N To (X) were lumped under the same monicker.

You see, I actually think it's brilliant that they left the humour behind. It's almost as if Ladytron started out as a bit of a conceptual semi-joke ("Hey, wouldn't it be fun if we formed an 80s-style synthpop band!"), until they realised that the genre lent itself to writing truly magnificent, towering, sublime music. I can live without the rehashed sitcom themes if it means we get albums like Light And Magic.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 14-05-2008 09:33

King Mob wrote:

Yeah, Clive, I was thinking that was it, but some foggy recess of my mind was telling me it went by another name in some quarters.

Well, if you'd like me to knock together a CD or two of such stuff for you, then I can. I'll just have to decide which CD copying/burning software to install/run on my new laptop first. (A pox on that accursed Windows Media Player - see threads passim.)

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Disney Girl Does Dulwich - 14-05-2008 10:06

I'll dig the DataRock CD out for you for next time I see you if you like.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 14-05-2008 10:17

Cool! Cheers, DG.

They (Datarock) are a band that I quite like, but have never really got into. I may be about to commit heresy here, but they have always seemed a bit like 'bandwagon-jumpers' to me - their take on electropop & new wave and their apparent flippancy both seem a bit too studied, to me. Perhaps they might have benefitted from the same shift in perceptions that SR posited as being beneficial to Ladytron? I dunno. Anyway, that's why I haven't bought any of their stuff - just made do with listening to it online.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 14-05-2008 16:15

So anyway, about the album: "Season Of Illusions" and "Ghosts" seem to have emerged as my personal favourites.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 16-05-2008 09:12

Well, that was a bit of a bummer.

They got 2/3 of the way through the set when a technical hitch meant they had to go offstage, initially just for an interval, but the curfew crept up and they never came back. Date to be rescheduled, refunds offered, all original tickets valid, blah blah.

It was a really good gig, too, while it lasted. The Velocifero material was sounding superb, and we got to hear "Seventeen" and "Blue Jeans" (as well as various oldie album tracks) before it all went tits-up.

Good to see Jimski and evilC again, by the way.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 08-07-2008 16:47

Well, they've just announced another tour - in November, this time ...and no Astoria on the list of dates.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-07-2008 16:47

Are you going to the rescheduled Astoria date next Wednesday? (Your ticket should still be valid.) I think I am.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 08-07-2008 16:48

Yep.

See you there?

...Same place, same time?

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-07-2008 16:52

Hah, I expect so. Although there's a danger that my superiors may, in their wisdom, send me to the Zutons (or other similarly crap gig) instead.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 08-07-2008 16:55

I didn't realise you were at the mercy of such evil overlords.

My sympathies.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-07-2008 16:58

Ah excellent, they're doing Brighton.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by marke - 09-07-2008 10:07

I'll dig the DataRock CD out for you for next time I see you if you like.

that album has completely taken over my playlist this week.

love it.

saw it cheap in the massive Zavvi sale, and then remembered that Datarock are helping Annie now, so picked it up on a whim.

Basically, as I've said elsewhere, tis the unreleased second album by Clor.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by linus - 09-07-2008 18:01

I saw the concert last week in Montreal.

Datarock was a bit weak overall, way overstaged show, in their unabomber look with matching red hooded tracksuits, 1976 hair and shades, and the prerequisite antics that go with that (American Idol choreography, beast fingers, clapping etc) with songs about Molly Ringwald and visuals fixated on Californian suburbia. A bit overdone, though some of the songs were pretty good. Maybe if they started a few years ago they could have churned out great Nordic stuff like Royksopp's or Erlend Oye's, but it's 2008, and they're mired in retro party pop. They'd be dripping in irony if they ever came out of that pool, but as it is they're swimming 5 meter deep into it.

The Ladytron show was good, though not nearly as great as some from their older tours. The song selection was excellent, they've built up an awesome collection of singles over the years and it's always great to hear them live, but they gave most of those songs a uniform treatment of slower, beat-heavy sound which dulled a bit the crystalline qualities of their vocals and vintage synthesizers. It worked really well on several songs but by and large their last tour with Pop Levi was a bit better.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 10-07-2008 12:11

I'm actually not going to the rescheduled Ladytron gig, because I'm getting sent to Cardiff to see Jay Z.

The Zutons would have been luxury in comparison.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 10-07-2008 12:36

Oh well - never mind. Catch you some other time, perhaps?

Will you get the chance to visit your rellies whilst in the Motherland?

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 10-07-2008 12:44

Yeah. Although I doubt my dad will wanna come with me to see Jay Z (even given his new status as DJ on the local black music radio station).

Re:Ladytron

Posted by jason voorhees - 11-07-2008 00:35

I know he's not Ladytron, but you may be surprised by Jay Z. He's one of the few hiphoppers who understands the importance of live performance.

Re:Ladytron

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 11-07-2008 06:55

I've seen him before, and last time he sucked dogshit through an old tramp's sock.

I hear he's improved though, so we'll see...

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 17-07-2008 10:50

Saw them (again) last night, at The Astoria.

They were pretty damn good. Much better than the first time they (abortively) played the gig, a few weeks back.

I should have loved them, but I find it hard to get enthused about a band that is so static on stage. They just look really awkward - like it's their first ever gig. Of course, some bands make studied standing still a feature - even an art form - but Ladytron just look ill-at-ease, somehow. I prefer artists/bands to at least have a bit of stage presence whether it is, say, Kraftwerk's aforementioned studied immobility or one of the countless bands who run all over the stage. It just assists the atmosphere a little, I feel.

I had a quick chat with Gary Levermore - ex-boss/owner of Third Mind records (now working for Nettwerk) while I was there. That's all - just idle fanboy gossip!

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by linus - 17-07-2008 15:57

Helen and Mira are consistently the best-coiffed, best-dressed women in pop, they looked great in their black dresses (hehe). That slightly awkward stance suits them well, they're both not very effusive and a little bit of reserve goes with their sound.

It's kind of funny how they always stick the guys in the back, and the guest bassist in the back and in the corner.

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Re:Ladytron

Posted by evilC - 18-07-2008 11:08

http://a901.ac-images.myspacecdn.com/images01/95/l_c8569cbd58851cdba1704ea1b03c2ddc.jpg

A rather good photo, which captures the lightshow (and matching eyes) quite well. Unfortunately, they didn't get much more animated than this, though.

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