
The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Rumpus - 17-05-2008 10:47

Of course my watch is slow, the album has been out for ages and has already been faintly damned in the other place.

But I found myself to listening to A+E and it is wonderful in every way. Just look at the words:

"It's a blue, bright blue Saturday, hey hey
And the pain's starting to slip away, hey hey

I'm in a backless dress on a pastel ward that's shining

Think I want you still
But there may be pills at work"

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 19-05-2008 11:07

I still haven't warmed to the album as a whole, but you are right that A&E is magnificent. Definitely one of the singles of the year.

I really like the Hercules & Love Affair mix too, though it loses the lightness of touch that is key to the original working so well.

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by King Mob - 19-05-2008 11:11

Here's what we had to say on the old board - although in true OTF fashion, it gets derailed by the second page.

If the album has a real problem, it's that it doesn't take the woozy, blurred, hauntological thing far enough. The first two tracks nail it exactly - 'Clowns' with its bleary, indecipherable vocals and 'Little Bird' with its nursery rhyme lyrics and impeccable "July, ly, ly" refrain - but after that, it descends into a series of vaguely woolen strum-alongs, more 'Handful of Songs' than 'Picture Box'.

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Horse - 19-05-2008 11:30

I can't see anything usurping this as my album of the year.

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 19-05-2008 11:33

Bloody hell.

I found it unlistenable beyond the first two plays (and one of those was for professional purposes).

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by King Mob - 19-05-2008 11:38

The videos for both singles have been a real disappointment, too. They had those wonderful sun-kissed, summer evening (or was it a winter morning?) promotional pictures taken, which really reinforced the band's new direction; then, for the videos, they went horribly cute and came up with efforts that would have suited Bjork circa 1995 but didn't compliment the mood at all.

But still, fair do's to them for having a stab at something different and a bit off-kilter.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Horse - 19-05-2008 11:44

That's a shame; the promo shots were fantastic. They really, as you say, announced the new sound.

Give it another listen, SR. It's tune after tune. (I can't be bothered rereading the old thread but I thought you were just initially disappointed that it no longer sounded like T Rex.)

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 19-05-2008 11:56

The Horse wrote:

That's a shame; the promo shots were fantastic. They really, as you say, announced the new sound.

Give it another listen, SR. It's tune after tune. (I can't be bothered rereading the old thread but I thought you were just initially disappointed that it no longer sounded like T Rex.)

They never sounded like T. Rex in the first place, but yes, I was initially disappointed that they no longer sounded like Gary Glitter gone electro. However, having listened to the whole album again, I then became disappointed that they did sound like a slightly alternative version of fucking Dido.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Crusoe - 19-05-2008 12:09

Just out of interest, SR, what did you think of Felt Mountain?

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Horse - 19-05-2008 12:14

However, having listened to the whole album again, I then became disappointed that they did sound like a slightly alternative version of fucking Dido.

Crikey. Dido? That's just mental.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 19-05-2008 12:16

Crusoe wrote:

Just out of interest, SR, what did you think of Felt Mountain?

Loved it.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 19-05-2008 12:18

The Horse wrote:

However, having listened to the whole album again, I then became disappointed that they did sound like a slightly alternative version of fucking Dido.

Crikey. Dido? That's just mental.

No it isn't. It's the same kind of nonmusic that Dido makes. 'Music' that is hardly even there. Just because it comes with the coolness of the Goldfrapp brand, and the goodwill Goldfrapp have built up, it shouldn't blind people to that truth.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Horse - 19-05-2008 12:33

I just don't understand. It's tune after tune after tune and, as the opening post demonstrates, has nothing in common with the likes of Dido lyrically. It certainly has a babyish, toybox quality to it, but that just makes it more intoxicating, especially when its creepier side emerges. It's a bit reminiscent of Joanna Newsom in that respect, although what I keep thinking of is that 70s film where Michelle Dotrice goes on a cycling holiday in dead-quiet rural France and gets attacked by the sinister locals. (And Soon the Darkness, it's called. Check it out.) It's really sexy as well, but it's a fluttering white cotton skirt now, instead of a rubber mini.

I mean, what else is nonmusic? Nick Drake? Fairport Convention? Elliott Smith? I can't see what you mean at all.

As must surely be apparent by now, I'm totally unconcerned by coolness or previous goodwill. I didn't particularly like Goldfrapp's previous two albums, for a start. Competent dressing-up-box homages aimed at people who will lap up absolutely anything that sounds a bit glammy.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by King Mob - 19-05-2008 12:37

SR's "Music that is hardly even there" comment puzzles me, too. Are there not enough notes? Is it that the production is so stripped down? Is it just because it's so quiet? I mean, taking volume out of the equation, you could argue that the drums & guitar sound of The White Stripes is 'non-music'.

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Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 19-05-2008 13:16

The Horse wrote:

I didn't particularly like Goldfrapp's previous two albums, for a start. Competent dressing-up-box homages aimed at people who will lap up absolutely anything that sounds a bit glammy.

Ouch...

OK, listen, I'm slightly exaggerating how much I dislike the new album. After all, I gave it a 3/5 review in the end, and I do appreciate what you call the "toybox quality".

But it's definitely a let-down, and I'm kind of amazed that anyone else didn't consider it a let-down when they heard it, if they're honest with themselves, and didn't try to force themselves to like it because it's Goldfrapp and to not like it would be evidence of philistinism. (Doesn't apply to you, I guess, if you didn't like Goldfrapp to begin with, but to anyone who did, I can't believe they didn't get the same sinking feeling I did.)

With your list of Nick Drake, Fairport Convention and Elliott Smith, you're doing what you tried to do to me with Fawly, Abigail's etc on the Wallace & Gromit/Victoria Wood thread, i.e. listing stuff which is good within the same broad genre as the bad thing, to somehow prove that the bad thing is good. I don't get that tactic at all. It seems a bit of a debating self-inflicted shot-in-the-foot.

For the record, I reckon Nick Drake and Fairport Convention are pretty good, mainly because there is a drama and a dynamic to their music which is almost totally lacking in the new 'Frapp (and, of course, Dido, hence the comparison). And which, by the way, was present in Goldfrapp's previous 'ethereal' album Felt Mountain, so it isn't as though I'm against that stuff per se.

(I don't know much about Elliott Smith, so I'll have to pass on that.)

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Horse - 19-05-2008 13:24

With your list of Nick Drake, Fairport Convention and Elliott Smith, you're doing what you tried to do to me with Fawly, Abigail's etc on the Wallace & Gromit/Victoria Wood thread, i.e. listing stuff which is good within the same broad genre as the bad thing, to somehow prove that the bad thing is good. I don't get that tactic at all. It seems a bit of a debating self-inflicted shot-in-the-foot.

Well, no. On the Wood thread my deliberately silly, superficial criticisms of Fawly/Abigail were there to demonstrate how silly and superficial your dislike of Wood was: I was saying that if you dismiss Wood for the reasons you do, you might as well dismiss all kinds of other things.

Here I was simply trying to provoke some expansion on the apparently meaningless "nonmusic" thing, as well as wondering whether perhaps you've dismissed the record because you don't like things that sound quiet and folkly (apparently not). If you're not feeling the drama in the new Goldfrapp, fair enough. I am. Although it's more wistful but slightly unnerving bucolics than drama per se.

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by evilC - 19-05-2008 13:36

While I sympathise with alot of the sentiment of SR's comments (mainly pertaining to other bands, really, though) I have to wonder if this album is disappointing (to SR and presumably others) on the basis that it's a more 'relaxed' Goldfrapp - that after the self-conscious uber-stylisation of her previous 'glam-stomp' manifestation, this more mellow model seems to have less substance somehow? I see it more as a slight maturation - an intake of breath, a detox - after the style excesses of the last few years. I'm not sure the album's cause is helped by some superficially hippy tinges, but - and I think she may be feeling the same way, judging by that interview she gave in the Guardian - I think it's a case of 'a change is as good as a rest' ...and this is both.

Give her another album or two and she'll be back to full-on dance mode again.

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by pisces - 26-05-2008 06:49

Allow REX THE DOG to put the glam back into your GOLDFRAPP '08 version!

An officialy comissioned mix this but
Alison + co didnt want it apparantly so the story goes.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDZR6SIQ_tA

Re:The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by The Moral Animal - 26-05-2008 11:21

I normally love Rex the Dog, but that Happiness remix doesn't really do it for me - I'm not sure the song's suited to that kind of electro-pop treatment.

Welcome over to the new board, though, piscesboy!

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Re: The new Goldfrapp album

Posted by evilC - 26-05-2008 19:11

Cheers for that, Piscesboy.

While I agree that the Rex The Dog mix isn't quite as good as most of his remixes, I can't for the life of me understand how the Metronomy mix - with that beat shoehorned uncomfortably into it - got selected ahead of it.

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