

here that atmosphere, even if the lack thereof kills much of the excitement created by its melodic sensibility. —Kevin Stewart-Panko



Kitchens Of Distinction

Folly

★★★★★★★☆☆

LOOP

Simmer burner

In the days when "indie rock" went by "college rock," South London trio Kitchens Of Distinction fit comfortably alongside the Church, Cocteau Twins and Echo & The Bunnymen. But where those bands' legacies continued into the Internet Age, Kitchens became a treasure for crate-diggers to stumble upon. Perhaps it was Patrick Fitzgerald's menacing baritone or his uncompromising songwriting, but KOD always shied away from even the mainstream side of alternative. Arriving nearly 20 years after the band's last studio album, *Folly* finds KOD darker and statelier than ever.

The band members are no strangers to intense lyrical themes, and *Folly* begins with "Oak Tree," a brutal tale of love, sex and death. Ominous strings and pianos augment Julian Swales' dynamic guitar lines and Daniel Goodwin's thundering drums, giving "No Longer Elastic" and "Photographing Rain" an eerie elegance. Though 1989 debut *Love Is Hell* remains the best entry point for newcomers, many of *Folly*'s highlights ("Japan To Jupiter," "I Wish It Would Snow") recapture some of that classic Kitchens Of Distinction gloom.

—Eric Schuman