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Review: Therapy? Rescue Rooms, by Joel Wainwright



Monday, November 26, 2012



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If you can remember the sweaty, Brit-pop and alt-rock saturated days of the early nineties, you'll know of a lot of bands that seemed destined for immortality, only to see their successes peter out.

For most of those 'golden age' acts, those brief glimpses of stardom led to inevitable break-ups, and nowadays, the odd hasty reformation to cash-in on our sense of nostalgia.

But can the same be said for Therapy?

Not at all.

The Northern Irish outfit, lead by guitarist and songwriter Andy Cairns, have maintained a constant and welcome addition to our music collections for the last two decades, culminating in their thirteenth studio album, A Brief Crack of Light, released earlier this year.

To be fair, Therapy? were never quite cut from the same cloth as their contemporaries of that time such as

Nirvana, Pearl Jam, or even The Smashing Pumpkins, but their brand of alternative rock, punk and grunge fusions still gets a crowd jumping and enjoying themselves. Cairns, in his role as affable front-man, creates a vibe that sweeps through the audience, charging us up with his neat guitar licks and the occasional cheeky grin.

But the real energy of the trio is supplied by Cairns' bandmates, whether it be Neil Cooper's explosive drumming or the heavy, thumping bass of the Evil Priest, aka Michael McKeegan.

The band have always churned out a nice line in head-bangy and bouncy tunes, and while Cairns' lilting voice was sometimes lost in the mix, they definitely delivered on tracks such as Isolation and Screamer.

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