

The Fall



New Facts Emerge

CHERRY RED. CD/DL/LP

Mark E Smith, the rigid enemy of all, brings LP 31.

To paraphrase a song off 2008's *Imperial Wax Solvent*, Mark E Smith is a 60-year-old man and he likes it. *New Facts*

Emerge could be said to be business as usual: ie, it cannot be quantified, and pulses with raw music, stimulating confusion and a certain monstrous glee. This time, harsh metal riffs, country picking and random-sounding sonic embellishments provide the backdrop for Smith, his voice catarrhy or golem-like as he declares "stop shaking down those frogs" on the title track, collides Edgar Allen Poe, Snow White and slaughterhouse grunge on *Couples Vs Jobless Mid 30s*, and returns to the spirit of *Container Drivers* on the sympathetic *Groundsboy*. But none so great as the closing *Nine Out Of Ten*, a nine-minute North-west Maggot Brain wherein Smith talks album star ratings, life chances and broken rules, like some Faustian debtor trying to stave off the moment of truth.

Ian Harrison



Pamela Springsteen