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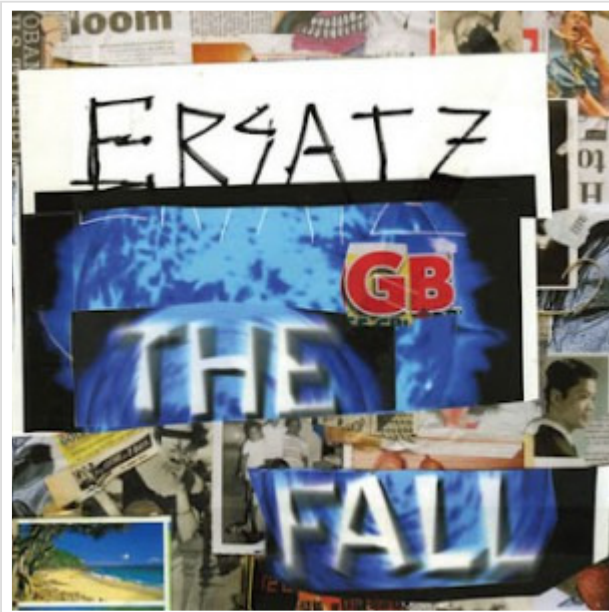


FEATURES INTERVIEWS LIVE REVIEWS NEWS REVIEWS

Navigation: Weblog / Blog article: The Fall – Ersatz GB CD

The Fall – Ersatz GB CD

POSTED BY MARTIJN ON FEBRUARY - 20 - 2012



The Fall – Ersatz GB

The Fall – Ersatz GB CD (Cherry Red/MVD)

On its 29th album of all-new material, The Fall have revised its standard approach of disturbing minimalism for one approaching sonic overkill. Repetitive riffing continues to abound, but the riffs here are hummable, memorable affairs, while the spaces in-between are filled with swirling feedback loops and freakout soloing rather than with dead air or some equally oppressive act of sonic rebellion. More than ever, Mark E. Smith and his cohorts – guitarist Peter Greenway, bassist David Spurr, drummer Keiron Melling, and keyboardist/vocalist Elena Poulou – project the idea of a band, at times actually recalling acts such as

Wire, Television, Stereolab, Boards Of Canada, and even Fugazi. Anger is omnipresent with The Fall, and the layered vocals and vintage hardcore drumbeat of 'I've Seen Them Come' stands shoulder-to-shoulder with any other track from the band's canon in that regard, while 'Happi Song' (with Poulou delivering a pretty, engaging turn on lead vocals) provides a sense of balance that is often hard to place on the band's albums. Still, from the title ('ersatz' meaning 'a cheap substitution for' and 'GB', of course, referring to Great Britain) to the lyrical content (as always, Smith proffers a bounty of cryptic warnings, distasteful laments, and general stabs at enlightenment through a mouthful of teeth that seem both clenched and bared all at once) to the beautifully unholy dissonance of the music, it is clear that the more things change, the more they stay the same – and with a band as eternally awe-inspiring and important as The Fall, that's a beautiful thing. **The Impaler**

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