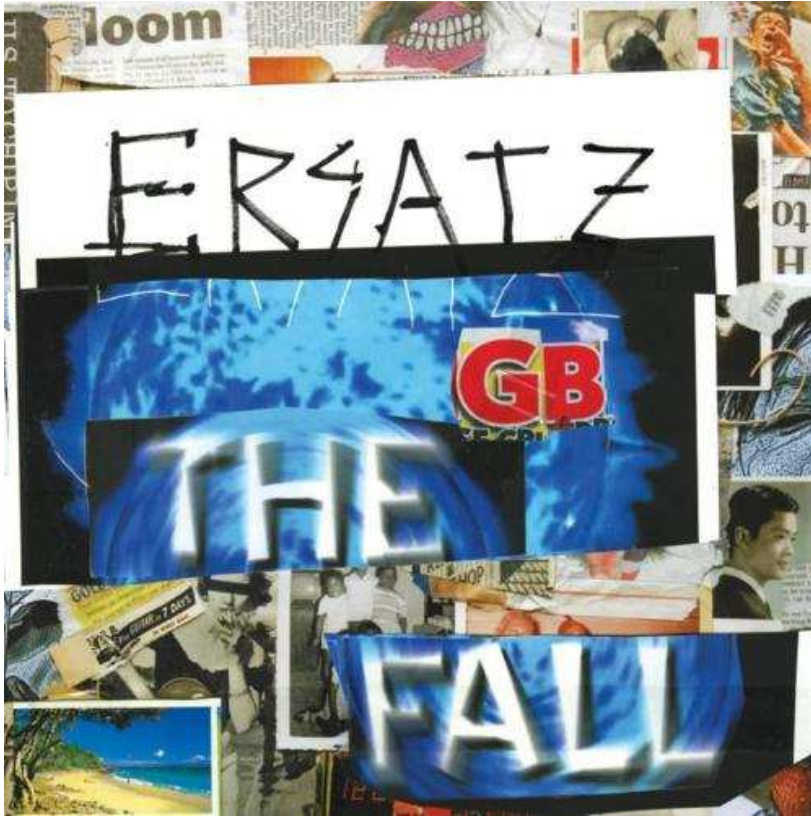


The Impaler Speaks

The Fall - Ersatz GB

@CherryRedGroup @mvdentgroup The Impaler's verdict: 'eternally awe-inspiring'. If you've never listened to [The Fall](#), this is as good a place as any to start. Review will appear in [Mass Movement](#) 32.



The Fall – Ersatz GB ([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 'Happy 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** [@impalerspeaks](#)

Posted 2 months ago

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The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more....

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