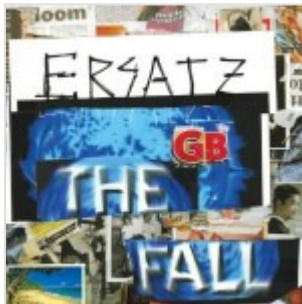


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THE FALL Ersatz GB CD

Steve Miller | Feb 09, 2012 | Comments 0 |



Lists are for geeks, but since we're talking about a new Fall release, let's give it a shot. In order, my favorites are: *Hex Enduction Hour*, *This Nation's Saving Grace*, *Live at the Witch Trials*, *Levitate* and *Slates*.

Then you have the songs that are singles or jump off of otherwise routine full-lengths: "Blindness," "Rowche Rumble," "50 Year Old Man" the cover of "White Lightning." So it's a pained listen to *Ersatz GB* in that I crave some moment, however fleeting, and it's hard to find.

"Greenway" is a big riff song, 4 minutes of it. It's the only song in the batch that catches me off guard in its volume, but otherwise, I can't think of it as anything more than an anomaly.

Mark E. Smith's vision is the ultimate parody of the Big Music Machine, although he's going backward. While major bands release an album every three or four years, The Fall continues to be bent on putting everything out there, sheer volume trumping quality.

With that in mind, I give them a tip; EPs.

Slates, noted above as one of the band's best, was an idea that was rarely revisited. *Ersatz* might have worked as a three-song release. Instead, it's filler complemented by a couple worthy things. The muse strikes with the reliability of a dealer, but when it doesn't arrive, don't fake it. [Cherry Red]

-Miller

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Tags: 50 Year Old Man • Big Music Machine • Blindness • EPS vs LPs • Ersatz GB • Greenway • Hex Induction Hour • Levitate • Live at the Witch Trials • Mark E. Smith • Music Criticism • Rowche Rumble • Slates • Steve Miller • The Fall • This Nation's Saving Grace • White Lightening • Your Flesh record review

About the Author: Steve Miller is an author and journalist and can be found at www.avalanche50.com. He is currently working on several projects, including Detroit Rock City: The Uncensored History of Five Decades of Rock 'n Roll in America's Loudest City (Da Capo, 2013), Nobody's Women: A Cleveland Serial Killer (Penguin/Berkeley, 2012) and Commando: The Johnny Ramone Autobiography (Abrams, 2012)



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