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Pete MacLeod's Rolling Stone Rolls Mightily Along

Pete MacLeod
Rolling Stone
359 Music

By [Alex Green \(http://caughtinthecarousel.com/author/agreen/\)](http://caughtinthecarousel.com/author/agreen/)

It's a nervy thing to name an album *Rolling Stone*, but it's even nervier for that album's first track to use the words of a John Lennon song for its chorus.

But Glasgow's Pete MacLeod is a nervy guy for a reason—he can back it up in a big, big way. The singer/songwriter has a bag of songs that are so unbelievably strong, he can fiddle with the masters all he wants because he may very well be one himself.

The seasoned MacLeod has been around since 1996, releasing E.P.s, singles and an album on his own, and he's no stranger to the road, playing gigs everywhere from Germany to California. Signed to Alan McGee's 359 label, MacLeod checks in here with ten new tracks that showcase his unreasonable gift for writing effortless pop songs. Bristling with confidence, muscle and a surprising amount of finesse, *Rolling Stone* is redolent with the kinds of hooks that Oasis seemed to run out of after their second record. "Keep Your Dreams Alive" and "Let It Shine" jangle brilliantly away, the imploring "Give A Little Love" is impossible to resist and "God Speed" is a punchy blast of pop perfection.

Awash in acoustic guitars, "Panic" is tinged with regret and anxiety, but MacLeod snarls his way through it all with a fiery resolve; the ballad "Re: Ality" is gently upbraiding ("You give it all away/There's nothing more I can say") and the album-closing "Today I Went Swimming" is a cathartic, cascading wonder, that swirls into a sonic vortex of swirling guitars and soaring vocals.

One of the best albums of this waning year.

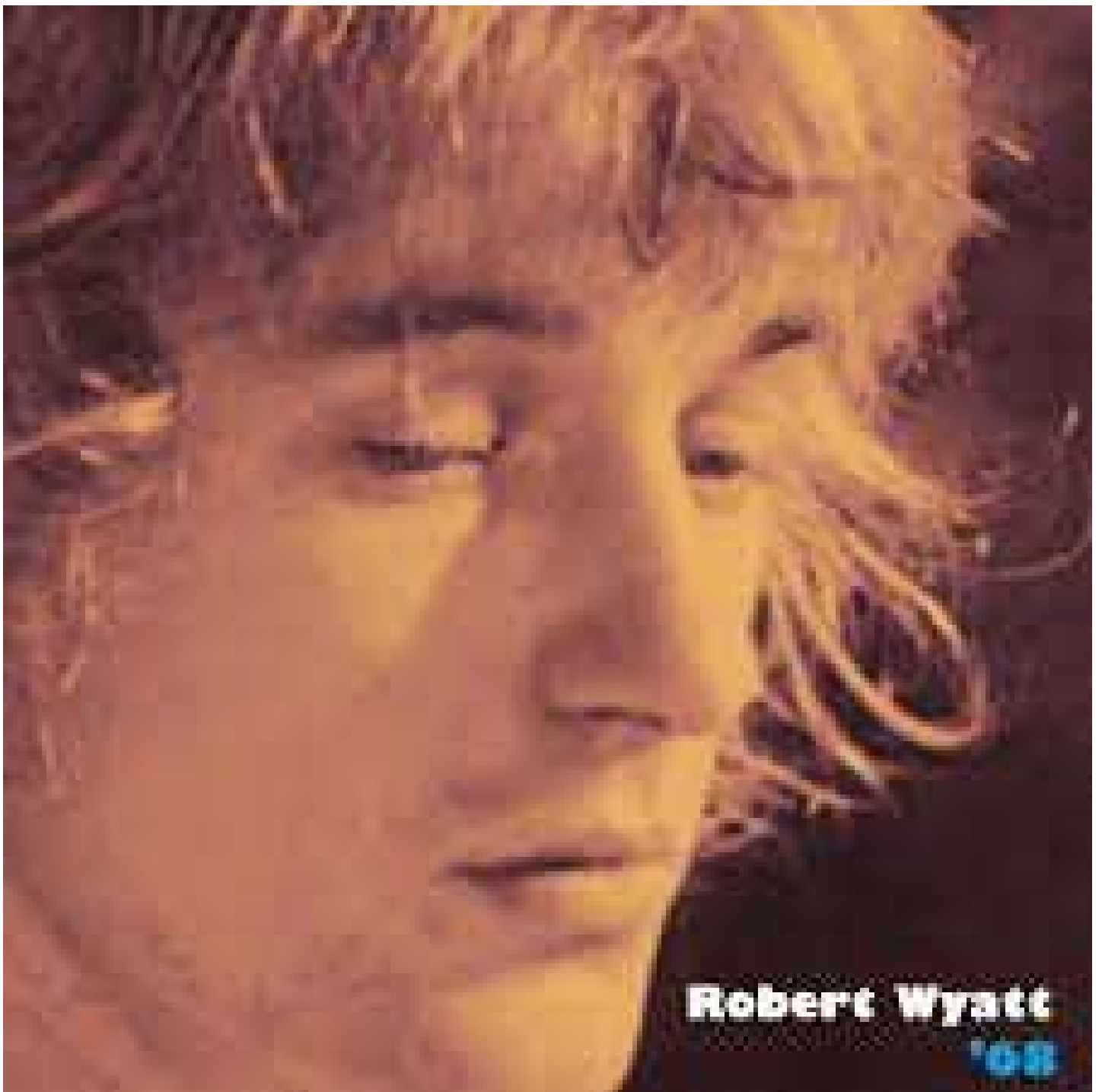
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