

CD Review

“Last Chance Disco”
Acoustic Ladyland

Last Chance Disco is a great green fire-spewing B-movie swamp-monster of an album. Acoustic Ladyland, a Hendrix tribute band from another planet, have come to Earth and evolved into a feverish beast that puts jazz in its tea and eats Indie-kids like greasy bar snacks.

Gone is any sign of their acoustic origins. Sonically, they now draw upon post-punk and hardcore, with antennae tuned into any rock or jazz movement around during the past four decades, but this is nevertheless jazz, and assuredly so. It's mostly instrumental, with a vocal ranting along on one track making it almost feel a lot like drunken ska, and Pete Wareham's tenor sax leading the rest (mostly his compositions) like some ghostly ancestral lead singer. All music, from Messaien to the Yeah Yeah Yeahs (co-dedicatees on one track) has been voraciously warped and consumed, and the effect is almost frightening. Tuneful, funky, vividly dissonant and generous, it engenders feelings both apocalyptic and revelatory; it is the wardrobe that separates us from Narnia, the end of one world and the beginning of the next; and it is one of the finest albums you will hear this year.