



SHORT REVIEWS LIVE REVIEWS DVD REVIEWS ZINES

- 2012 REVIEWS
- 2011 REVIEWS
- 2010 REVIEWS
- 2009 REVIEWS
- 2008 REVIEWS
- 2007 REVIEWS



3.10.14
Sally Seltmann
HEY DAYDREAMER-(ARTS & CRAFTS)-Though she is just starting to get known over on these shores Sally Seltmann had been a fixture on her native Australian music scene since the early 90's, first with the band Lustre 4 and then in the 2000's with New Buffalo. With her previous record, 2010's HEART THAT'S POUNDING, she decided to start releasing records under her own name. Recorded mostly in her attic with her husband Darren (from The Avalanches) Seltmann has created a unique sonic palette here, swooping and orchestral one minute (the title track) to dark and moody ("Billy"- where she sings, "I need you to feel like a man..." and "Needle in the Hay") the next to naïve and childlike the next ("Dear Mr. Heartless" though it is NOT a kids songs). The record is full of woodwinds, horns, strings and a pedal steel (which does have strings, yes). Seltmann describes the song "I Will Not Wear Your Wedding Ring" as "a dark fairy tale for grown ups" which sounds pretty accurate and "The Small Hotel" is pure beauty through and through. One way this record passes the litmus test is that it's enjoyed by both me AND my 6-year old daughter while in the car (The Beatles were the only band prior to that that we both enjoyed and individual songs by Beulah, Galaxie 500 and the Television Personalities). A pretty and unique record (and pretty unique, too). HEY DAYDREAMER works on all levels and I found it hard to focus on anything else while the record was playing. Huzzah! www.arts-crafts.ca



3.10.14
The Stargazer Lillies
WE ARE THE DREAMERS-(GRAVEFACE)-This I a record that I wanted to review a while ago (came out in 2013) but it got lost in the shuffle. It's a shoegaze outfit from PA, led by John and Kim (they used to be in the band Soundpool...on here hers are those dreamy, high-pitched vocals and he does the guitar that has probably a hundred fx pedals). The songs are dense and thick but airy at the same time (think Cocteau Twins) and the songs don't just sit there, they actually move (ok, maybe drift) and are GOOD. "Del Rey Mar" was like the best dream you've ever had as was the nearly-as-good "Undone." At times it's so dreamy you think you're in a David Lynch film an even though you don't know the ending, you're trusting the process. Just trust. www.graveface.com



3.10.14
Strange Cruise
S/T-(CHERRY RED/ CHERRY POP)-Strange Cruise was a short-lived project for former Visage frontman Steve Strange. Recorded and released in 1986, it is an interesting direction for Strange. Gone are Visage's post-punk, New Romantic tendencies; while Strange's singing style is distinctive, the music itself is somewhat generic, forgettable 1980s dance-pop. Considering how Visage had flirted with chart success, it's easy to understand why he'd want to continue in that direction. Okay, so while nothing here is embarrassing, and "Animal Call" and "12 Miles High" do have their charms, for the most part, Strange Cruise neither inspires nor bores, and it lacks the flare of Strange's Visage work. There's probably a very good reason why they only made the one record--instead, seek out the copious Visage back catalog--you can't go wrong. (Do spare yourself of the temptation of checking out their cover of "The Beat Goes On," though.) www.cherryred.co.uk
 JOSEPH KYLE



3.10.14
The Strawberry Alarm Clock
INCENSE AND PEPPERMINTS / WAKE UP, IT'S TOMORROW-(TUNE IN/ CHERRY RED)-This colorful cd (with a thick, loaded booklet to match, like most stuff on the Cherry Red imprint) is a two-fer reissue of this LA band's first two releases. I know that due to the song "Incense and Peppermints" the band is looked upon as a one-hit wonder but they were surely not. The band seemed to move with ease from flowery pop music to heavier