

One of the fondest memories I shall carry with me to my grave is trudging 12 miles home through the snow one cold winter's evening from Bradford. "Strange?" I hear you say - "a bit of a masochist, perhaps?". No, no, no, my dear friends, for although wading through piles of snow at 3 in the morning is not one of my favourite pastimes, this was the night when your humble scribe discovered the passionate sound of PARTY DAY....

I had previously encountered them on vinyl via their debut single, "ROW THE BOAT ASHORE"/"POISON" released on their own 'PARTY DAY' Label, and gaining instant notoriety for the luminous orange sleeve in which it came. Their second single release was also on their own Label, "THE SPIDER"/"FLIES", which also gained recognition for a rather 'different' approach to packaging - a plastic sleeve containing poster, info, record, and quite annoyingly for some less arable journalists, a handful of confetti!

—New Musical Express 19th May, 1984

PARTY DAY: I the Day! Moutby pellet of malevolence pops out of a fine motor man, motor guitar part; unfortunately I was showered with confetti when I drew disc from sleeve so suspect they are secret stages.

PARTY DAY 'The Spider' (Party Day) Excellent punk junk howl, despite all the bloody confetti they put in the sleeve. Full marks for an inventive cover, too. The lip is entitled 'Flies'; and hovers along nicely, thank you.

SOUNDS MAY 19 1984

Pix by Steve Drury

Pix by D.Gardner.

PARTY DAY

PARTY DAY, however are not a gimmick - you only have to hear their records, or see them live to realise that. And if you're still not entirely convinced, let me tell you that our three BARNSELY BABES (CARL FIRTH - Vocals/Bass, MICHAEL BAKER - Drums, Dean - Guitar/Backing Vocals) are all enormous fans of one Leonard Cohen - prick up your ears, students...LEONARD COHEN is in! In a vain attempt to categorise PARTY DAY, various "journalists" have bandied around with the names of such glittering stars as The BANSHEES, the CURE, DANSE SOCIETY etc...etc..., but having heard their records and seen them live on several occasions, I'd say they had a greater affinity with say.... MAGAZINE, than any of those previously mentioned.

But how do you describe their sound? - a sound that at times is so moody, enigmatic and transient that it seems to entrance the whole room in some sort of hypnotic chamber, and at other times is so powerful and energetic that it leaves all potential competitors lagging sadly behind. The two sides to PARTY DAY? - a Jekyll and Hyde band? Well maybe not, but which sound becomes the most successful depends largely on the Album to be released shortly by RED RHINO (on their own PARTY DAY Records?) and the 12" SINGLE to be released on the ROUSKA RECORD LABEL around August. Both releases will be awaited with baited breath by the more enlightened record buying public, and it's about time YOU devoted some of your attention to BARNSELY'S finest (if you're not one of the latter), as well!

