

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

Jul 11, 2003

BARELY PINK

LAST DAY OF SUMMER

(NOT LAME)

B+

Barely Pink's pop instincts always were impeccable. But sometimes, as on 1997's "Number One Fan," its power was in question. But on "Last Day of Summer," beefy production brings out the band's superior melodies and harmonies.

Brian Merrill's voice is ideal for the lyrics' sly romanticism. His and Mark Warren's guitars find a happy medium between George Harrison and Malcolm Young. Michael Hoag (bass) and Stan Arthur (drums) power everything along. "Last Day of Summer" is full of catchy tunes and fist-pumping riffs - a marriage made in power pop heaven. - *Curtis Ross*

weekly planet

Barely Pink
Last Day of Summer
Not Lame Recordings

Venerable St. Pete power-pop institution Barely Pink's third release finds its most enduring lineup by writing what they know and branching out a bit. While there are still plenty of major-key bar chords, upbeat rhythms and falsetto woo-hoo-hoos, the Pink adeptly sidesteps their avowed style's limitations with some fluid basslines, ELO/Beatles-inspired psychedelia and lots and lots of tasty guitar ebullience. The aptly named Last Day of Summer is exactly what you'd expect from a power-pop disc, a breezy end-of-summer romp, equal parts melancholy and libidinous fun. But it dodges insubstantiality because of the band's adventurousness -- the epic, bouncy "Do What You Like," wistful, acoustic "Mercury Girl" and throbbing, trippy "Firebug" aren't exactly traditional power-pop fare. Still, the quartet are at their best when laying down the straightforward, infectious rave-ups, as in "Girl in the Crowd," "Sixteen's Gone" and "Mood Meter Maid." The uninitiated may find some of the genre's traditional elements -- the self-conscious preciousness, the unrelenting sugar high -- a bit overbearing at first, but Last Day of Summer is solid, fun -- and by no means for diehard power-pop aficionados only. (www.notlame.com) --Scott Harrell

FOCUS

Barely Pink

Last Day Of Summer

Note Lame Records

The irony, of course, is that even if you lived around the Bayburg and have caught this band at numerous gigs, their recorded output has been almost exclusive to the overseas market. You must know this lore by heart (at least the metal guys do) - they sell more CDs in Japan and Europe than they do here. Glad to see that the fans at Colorado's No Lame are putting a halt to that insanity. Considering those discs were years ago with different band members, Last Day Of Summer is the first Barely Pink album by the band we've come to know and love. Does it even matter now how gorgeous the power chords of "Girl In The Crowd" come crashing through, while vocalist Brian Merrill zeros in on a lucky audience member? Darn straight. It's the type of zippy, first-impression leadoff cut that nails its classic-pop perspective in just this side of two minutes - bedrock backbeat, irresistible harmonies. That's why they invented this stuff, folks. The album is packed with nonstop minor classics that are now logging major memory listens. From the lost innocence freefall of "Sixteen's Gone" (love those falsettos, guys) and the frenzied, T-Rex-ish "Mood Meter Maid" to the reflective, daydreamy "California" and the janglepalooza of "Do What You Like" (with one of Mark Warren's tastiest solos ever), this album is a tightly-sequenced, mood-shifting delight that rates as one of the Bay's best. The band has made the haul-ass to just about every Pop Overthrow fest, label showcase and South by East by West thing they make. Here's where all that experience pays off.

Barely Pink
Last Day of Summer
Not Lame Records

4 out of 5 stars

Dutch version:

De uit Tampa (Florida) afkomstige band Barely Pink heeft hun nieuwe album op het Not Lame label uitgebracht. Een label waar prachtige powerpop pareltjes op verschijnen. Denk aan Shazam, Posies, Starbelly, General Store, Michael Carpenter en Myracle Brah. Hoewel hun eerste wapenfeit een 7" Vinyl met 3 songs waaronder een cover van Big Star In The Street verscheen al in 1995. Het eerste album verschijnt in 1997 Numberonefan. Dit album verschijnt in 1999 in Japan. In het zelfde jaar verschijnt in Japan ook het album Elli's suitcase. Na enige compilatie albums zoals World Greatest Power Pop Compilation de Burt Bacharach tribute What The World Needs Now en de Gene Clark tribute Full Circle nu dus Last Day Of Summer. Het album opent met Girl In The Crowd een heerlijk nummer dat van the Posies ten tijden van Dear 23 zou kunnen zijn. Op Do What You Like nemen ze even gas terug. In het nummer Hurt You Anyless hoor je als je de melodie lijn van Ruby Tuesday even langs komen. Jammer dat het na 39.11 minuten alweer voorbij is maar kwaliteit gaat bij de band boven kwantiteit. Maar de druk op play van je cdspeler en het is weer genieten. Haal in de nachten van deze hete zomer wat verfrissing in huis.

English version:

The from Tampa (Florida) originating tie Barely Blink has their new album on the Not Paralyzed label bring out. A label on which beautiful powerpop pearls appeared. Think of Shazam, Posies, Starbelly, General Disturb, Michael Carpenter and Myracle Brah. Although their first weapon fact a 7" Vinyl with 3 songs below which a cover of Piglet Rigid In The Street verscheen already in 1995. The first album appeared in 1997 Numberonefan. This album appeared in 1999 in Japan. In the same year appeared in Japan also the album Elli's suitcase. After only compilatie albums as World Greatest Power Doll Compilation the Burt Bacharach tribute What The World Needs Now and the That Clark tribute Full Circle now thus Burden Day Or Summer. The album opens with Girl In The Crowd a lovely number that of the Posies to times of Dear 23 might be. On Thu What You Lick take back they even gas. In the number You Anyless you hear Rents as yourself the melody rule of Ruby Tuesday just along come. Misery that it after 39.11 minutes again past is but quality goes by the tie above quantity. But the pressure on play of your cdspeler and it is again enjoy. Get in the nachten of these hot summer what verfrissing in house.