

Mp3 David Israel - These Are The Clothes We'll Wear When We're Old



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bittersweet songs for your soul to listen to 5 MP3 Songs in this album (31:13) ! Related styles: FOLK: Psych-folk, AVANT GARDE: Avant-Americana Details: By Doug Freeman Oct 25th, 2006 Category: Sound Reviews Its difficult to pinpoint exactly what separates an indie singer/songwriter from your more standard coffee house troubadour. There is a fair amount of self-deprecation and oblique life-into-art (Conor Oberst, Vic Chestnutt), clever and poetic lyrics (Dave Berman, John Darnielle), a playfulness that takes itself quite seriously (Will Oldham, Chan Marshall), and an emotional depth that is readily accessible but entirely unique and individual (Elliott Smith, Sam Beam). Theres also a trenchant appreciation of a folk line that bends towards the influence of rock and pop, drawn through the likes of Townes Van Zandt, Parsons and, of course, Dylan. But in looking over this list (and hopefully forgiving its limited, patriarchal bent), the artists mentioned all set themselves apart with a unique voice that combines all of these elements and mold them in memorable, sometimes unforgettable, songs. Whatever it may be that makes these artists stand out as songwriters and performers, David Israel seems to have it in droves. These are the Clothes Well Wear When Were Old, Israels debut EP, is instantly mesmerizing but also demands a repeated listening to fully mine its depths. His songs meander through whimsical and cryptic lyrics that anchor themselves in repetitive structures and allow the tune to take hold. Like Bright Eyes Lua or Smogs Rock Bottom Riser (to name but a couple recent examples), the simple musical melodies allow Israels narratives to develop at the forefront of the song. But those narratives are not so much stories as they are collages of memories, images and visceral sensations that seem almost randomly recalled to collapse past, present and future into a half-awake dream. The State That Youre In, arguably the best track of the five, manages this effect beautifully. Hovering between departure and arrival in some liminal

passage of memory, the song weaves through lyrics like Oh Baby, what happened to the sixties? / I dont know, lets listen to the Pixies and talk / Wading in the water and the waters gone / You stay awake and we sulk around / Yeah we sulk or Yeah Im staring at your stereo screens / We all want someone who can remember our dreams forever / But I cant. There is a strange calm throughout all of the songs, attributable to Israels low voice and the unhurried pace as he drawls out lines so thickly that the music seems often trying to slow down to catch up. Additional vocals are supplied by, among others, the sublimely talented Kerrie Hopper and Leatherbag, whose latest album Love Me Like the Devil blew us away several months ago. All of Israels tracks feature these layered vocals that remain slightly off pace rather than cleanly harmonizing and give the songs the feel of our eavesdropping on the stream-of-consciousness echoing inside his head. While the effect may have gotten stale through a whole album, it certainly doesnt here, even on the nearly twelve-minute closer If Money is Love. At times Israels lyrics push their cleverness a little too close to the edge, as with the Hefty Smurf, heart on the sleeve analogy in the final song. But even these sometimes too tongue-in-cheek moments dont distract from the overall beauty of the songs, and by the end of the album they redeem themselves in the vein of Bermans often quirky poetics. Its difficult to determine what a songwriter might be capable of from a single release, and Israels writing does still show elements that could use more development, but These are the Clothes Well Wear When Were Old is an astounding album in its own right and full of a promise of things to come. (Austin Sound)

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