



ARCHIE BRONSON OUTFIT

Coconut
EMI



Is UK three-piece Archie Bronson Outfit making a dash for mainstream success? Their third LP *Coconut* is certainly lighter, catchier and more diverse than the urgent, ragged blues-rock of 2006's *Derdang Derdang*. Anthemic single 'Shark's Tooth' and tremelo-drenched 'Bite It And Believe It' hover on three minutes and ooze radio single. On top of that, the disaffected misogyny of *Derdang Derdang* is gone. One could actually contemplate liking the dudes this time around.

The opening riffs of 'Magnetic Tooth' are distorted to the point of disintegration, backed by a hypnotic cow-bell beat. "It was just a trick of light" intones vocalist Sam Windett (well, it's either that or "It was just a chicken pie"). While 'Magnetic Tooth' has the density and percussive drive we expect from Archie Bronson Outfit, others are spacious and lite-on, bearing influences of bands like Duran Duran, Joy Division and early INXS. In fact, if one is a previous fan, a first listen to 'Coconut' is pretty disorienting. The meringue-light backing vocals on 'Hoola' are pushing it too deep into the fruit bowl for my liking, as is the sing-song refrain of 'Hunt you Down'. The one track to rule them all strikes at song six: 'You Have A Right To A Mountain Life'. A pressure-cooker of sounds build-up - horns, hollering and cymbal crashes - preceding a killer tempo change, as the song switches into badass old school rock n roll, treading the boards on the Link Wray side of surf rock. The song scorches.

The syncopated beats, polish and post-production work on most of the record makes the less laboured-upon numbers sound like straight-up jams. *Coconut* is an odd, disjointed combo but one that'd suit a long road trip - as long as you're not scared of the 'skip' button!

Kate Hennessy