

Divine intervention

6 **THE YOUNG GODS** *Super Ready/Fragmenté*
(Pias) £10.99 ★★★★★

The influential Swiss trio stick to their simple, brutally effective principles on this ninth album, to Chris Champion's delight



How many bands can you name who have been cited as an influence by heavyweights including U2, David Bowie and the Chemical Brothers? Only one. That would be Swiss outfit the Young Gods. When they

first emerged in the late Eighties there was no band like them: a power trio who played heavy rock without using guitars. Their music was built around a sampler (still a novelty back then), a live drummer and group founder Franz Treichler, a frontman with a voice like gravel and penchant for penning cod-mystical lyrics.

They graced the covers of UK music weeklies and were feted as 'the first 21st-century rock band'.

In truth, they sounded futuristic and primitive at the same time, deconstructing rock down to its constituent parts then building it back up again using discrete elements; distended riffs and loops lifted from classical music and classic rock were reconstituted into a carnivalesque industrial sound all their own. Later albums incorporated elements of techno, ambient and *musique concrete*.

Possibly because so much music today seems stuck in a run-out groove endlessly re-treading the same tired formulas, on this, their ninth album, the Young Gods stick to their template and still manage to sound ahead of the game. Much like the Prodigy,

who should probably be collared for grand larceny of their sound, the Young Gods have an innate understanding of dynamics: when to crank it up and when to pare it down through degrees of speed and volume. It's staggeringly simple but brutally effective.

Super Ready/Fragmenté delivers on all 12 cylinders, from the rush of 'I'm the Drug', which kicks off with clipped power chords pitched up and down on an adrenal scale, through to the epic-poetic title track.

The Young Gods: not so young any more, still reaching for the divine in rock.

DOWNLOAD 'I'm the Drug'; 'C'est Quoi C'est Ça'

by Wu-Tang Clan recently. It's conceptual, violent and ridiculous - a rare combination.'