

THE YOUNG GODS

'Super Ready/Fragmenté'

PIAS

It is the measure of a band how much shit they have to go through but still come out of their tribulations artistically pristine and head high. The Young Gods have been through that. Renewing their once-fractious relationship with their spiritual home PIAS on their 25th anniversary retrospective and only recently sealing a cushy Stateside distro deal with Ipecac, those last few years of label uncertainty and financial constraints are now confined to the dungeon. Blessed with regenerative powers akin to their soul brothers Killing Joke, their long-awaited newie could be termed as a futuristic hyper-amalgam of their past, a blackened companion to the ice-white, weightless expanses of 1995's 'Only Heaven'.

Curiously, the most seriously-minded piece on the album is arguably their most controversially accessible: 'About Time's hazy political tract speaks of today's electoral consfearacy but with such catchy, seductive zeal. However, the jumpy, Iberian-tinged 'El Magnifico' and 'Stay With Us's elegant sitar plucks, featuring a vocoded Franz Treichler at his most ruminative, keep weaving the tantric webs of delirium. For some, an interluding 'Machine Arriere', with Franz rambling like William Burroughs to a bluesy skeleton, might sap the momentum a bit. Otherwise consider this little breather a portal to a heaving last lap, with the monumental, control-built title track and a euphoric, 'Strangel'-like riff to 'Everythere'. Familiarly blissed out, and that's how it should be.

[7.5] RICHIE RUCHPAUL

