

RATED: LIVES

Witchcraft:
Spellbinding



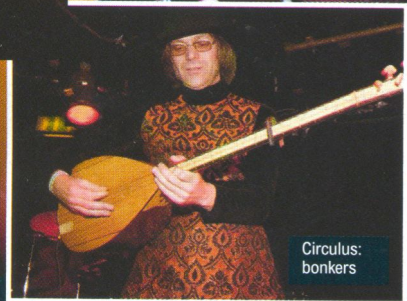
WITCHCRAFT
PLUS: CIRCULUS
THE UNDERWORLD, LONDON
29.07.05

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ANCIENT SOUNDS REAWAKENED IN THE CAPITAL.

YOU MAY have seen pictures of Circulus in the press recently. They're the ones with the felt floppy hats, tight tights and medieval-themed court-jester outfits. They also happen to have just released one of the year's most exciting new rock records with sounds and styles thought to have been left in the dark ages. Their acid-tinged fusion of progressive rock and folk might not necessarily appeal to fans of Slipknot, but the breezy and feel-good nature of 'Your Body Is Made Of Sunlight' and 'The Scarecrow' transport you back to simpler sounds and times. Yes, they look utterly ridiculous and at first glance do appear gimmicky, but the strength of the songs and the free-spirited vibe of their performance would make even the most miserable fucker break into a smile. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

Witchcraft look far too young and baby-faced to be playing rock as authentically old and classic sounding as they do. Sometimes the only way to understand and appreciate truly heavy music is to go right to the



Circulus:
bonkers

original source; the big bang, the creation of heavy metal in a nutshell – Black Sabbath. This is the point in time where Sweden's Witchcraft draw their inspiration from, carving buzzing doom riffs into a thick forest of classic and psychedelic rock influences. And despite the sound not being quite loud enough to make John Hoyles and vocalist Magnus Pelander's guitars as all encompassing as they should be, the pure and stripped-down grooves of 'Wooden Cross (I Can't Wake The Dead)' and 'Chylde Of Fire', both from new album 'Firewood', prompt mass head shaking from the mesmerised crowd, swept up in the chance to revisit a time in rock when the music was fresh and pure and everything hadn't already been done.

If you're looking for something a little more, shall we say 'modern', you'll find it somewhere on your iPod or hard-drive because you sure as hell won't find it here tonight.

JAMES SHERRY