

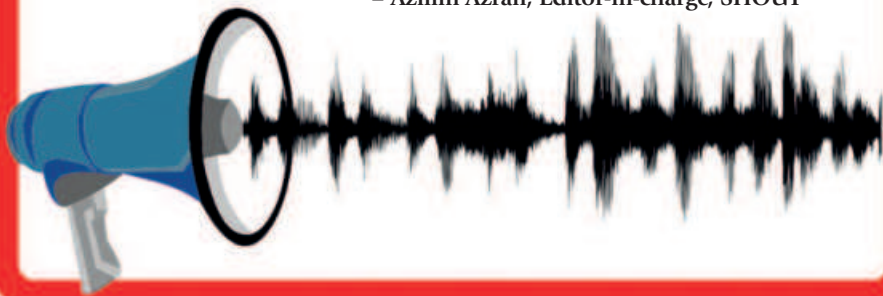
EDITORIAL

I would have been five years old the first time I played chess. A paper board came free with a jar of Horlicks, with plastic pieces that had jagged edges. My mom taught me the rules, and I played her and my sister a couple of times, but my attention span lasted only as long as the next Toonami hadn't aired on Cartoon Network. Eventually, one game led to a terrible fight with my sister and the chessboard suspiciously disappeared. To be honest, I don't think I noticed.

Last month, however, I was listening to a friend talk about Hans Niemann and Magnus Carlsen's feud. While I was fascinated by the drama, I don't think I thought about it much until I went home, went to my YouTube home page and witnessed the magic of the algorithm. Videos from GothamChess and GMHikaru started popping up. I clicked on one video, and then another.

Since then, I can say I have grown a new obsession. I play and lose to the bots on Chess.com for hours every day, watch YouTube content on chess and understand nothing, and I love it. For now.

— Azmin Azran, Editor-in-charge, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH

MUSIC



Arctic Monkeys' stay true to themselves with *The Car*

ARYAH JAMIL

British rock band Arctic Monkeys build upon their 2018 hit album *Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino* with their seventh studio album *The Car*. While this was the first Arctic Monkeys album to not reach the number-one spot, it is a refined record and showcases their signature style. It is unfair to claim it any lesser than the previous album despite missing the top spot as it was kept at number two by Taylor Swift's record-shattering *Midnights*.

The Car is fairly cinematic in nature depicting themes surrounding media, the music industry, show business, and similar topics. The guitar-heavy tunes and the articulacy in the songwriting work together to bring this album to life.

While *The Car* is more mainstream and commercially attractive, it still creates new sounds and holds true to the rest of the band's discography. I would not call it a reinvention but an almost balletic reflection.

The Car is a short album with only ten tracks summing up to a tasteful 37 minutes. Lovesick, loungey sounds mark a slight transformation of the band. Fears, sharp observations, and eerie thoughts about the industry and show business are dispersed quite heavily-handedly throughout the album's tracks.

Drummer Matt Helders shines perhaps over the guitar and bass in almost every track. The half-baked, unfinished, and slightly distraught ideas throughout the songs add much richness and character. The more you listen to this album, the clearer its intentions get. This record draws from artists like Isaac

Hayes, Gloria Ann Taylor, Marvin Gaye, and David Bowie.

Not genre-bending or anything quite new, the Arctic Monkeys stay with their tried and tested formula of combining art rock, electronic music, soul, and funk. Going straight into the tracklist, all of it is not gold.

"Hello You" is an alright track at best. It gets a little lost in terms of execution and blends into the background. "Sculptures of Anything Goes" was underwhelming but the theatrics and gloomy environment of the song works quite well. "Perfect Sense" captures the best of rock and folk and creates a fantastic piece wrapping up the album smoothly.

The perhaps Zappa-inspired "Body Paint" was a great track with creative lyrics like "Do your time travelling through the tanning booth / So you don't let the sun catch you crying". For me, the clear favourite has to be "Jet Skis On The Moat". This sultry, kind-of slow song manages to charm listeners every time. "I Ain't Quite Where I Think I Am" was another standout with punchy lines like "Stackable party guests / To fill the awkward silences / The disco strobes in the stumbling blocks".

The generational talent of Alex Turner is beyond evident in *The Car* and this album not only pleases old fans but is a great intro to the Arctic Monkeys for new listeners. The album flows smoothly in a relaxed way without lacking intensity. While it may not be the British band's best work, it is still a wonderful addition to its discography.

Aryah Jamil is mediocre at everything except laughing at her own jokes. Tell her to stop talking at jamil.aryah@gmail.com

TITLE OF YOUR MIXTAPE



A

Kill Bill
SZA

Two Is Better Than One
Boys Like Girls (ft. Taylor Swift)

WYD Now?
Sadie Jean

You And Me
Lifhouse

B

traitor
Olivia Rodrigo

Space For Two
Mr. Probz

Room For 2
Dua Lipa

my ex's best friend
Machine Gun Kelly (ft. blackbear)

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