

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.....

And when the dust had settled and the smoke had cleared the night belonged to Nitzer Ebb.

No prisoners were taken. No concessions were made. Nitzer Ebb pulsate. They surge. They lurk dangerously in the dark.

Their heavy electric and percussion din rhythm is powerful and hypnotic. And oddly violent in a disturbing, almost unbalanced way. The trio owe more than a passing debt to D.A.F. and the tautonic comparisons are strengthened by the dense percussive effects and rhythmic hammering of metal blocks. Very Einsturzende. Yet more accessible due to Bon's insistent and urgent sequencer patterns. Marvellous stuff.

The Ebbs are quite unlike any band that have ever come from Chelmsford and are without doubt the best I've seen from this dreary little backwater for...well, maybe ever. Note we're using words like best here. Words like ever.

Committed and intense. Imaginative and hard. Nitzer Ebb shouldn't be written about. They should be seen. At all costs. And soon.

They seem to improve with every performance. Since last I saw them they are tighter, harder, more controlled and vastly more assured. And as their set flows more quickly and more (un)easily their dark throat is more sustained and dramatic. They have already built up a healthy following in the town and were justly given a fine reception by the crowd.

Douglas, upfront with ranting vocalising, spoke harshly in condemning the pathetic fascist tag they have ^{been} ridiculously saddled with from some moronically irresponsible quarters. Presumably as a shallow reaction to their harsh Germanic image. But then as I can vouch there are quite a few idiot neurotics around who will bandy ~~xxxxx~~ fashionable cliches like 'fascist' and 'racist' in preference to looking at the facts or using their narrow minds.

The set builds in power and harsh urgency with ~~xxxx~~ pieces such as 'Crane', 'Faded Smiles', 'Home' and 'Tradition'. Douglas fronts it all with Bon on sequencer and incidental, murderous percussion, whilst Gibbon pins it all down with some demonic drumming, the only member of the band armed. Remember those names. You'll be hearing more of them. No question. Catch them while you can.