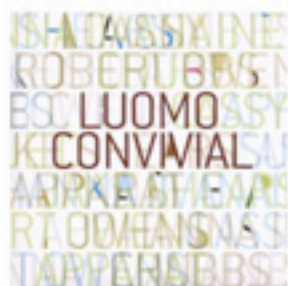


CDReviews



Luomo :: Convivial

Huume Germany

★★★★★

Reviewed on Friday, November 07, 2008 by Dalana Feuer

In the club, everything glows black-light purple and the many bobbing

faces are frozen with pursed lips. The international DJ of the week with an unpronounceable name has his bag of tricks and he just might, at any minute,

pull out a platter that's a veritable arsenal of anthemic vocals and riffs. In fact, he might pull out *Convivial*.

But Luomo's fourth album cuts techno 101 cheesecake into nine palpable slices, thematically reaching real depths through shallow waters and abstractions thereof. "Slow Dying Places," for example, regards experiential despair: "So hard to be alone/So hardcore." The song then answers those fearsome feelings with, "All is not black/Maybe it's sad," repeated enough times that the listener begins believing the sun will shine again, summoned by Johanna Iivanainen, whose accented gentility peppers the album. "Have you Ever?" conjures eternity broken down into simple terms: "Have you ever had the time to wonder?" which is broken further into a million echoing pieces. "If I Can't," featuring Jake Shears of Scissors Sisters, is flowery in both the perfumed and sexual senses of the term—think bees spreading flower semen around the world. "Love You All" would be the *raison d'être* for an apiary gang, their love song, dropping lines like, "What if I want to love you all?/Don't want to waste your beauty, aw." With every track clocking in at about seven minutes, *Convivial* may fulfill not only the needs of the insatiable dancefloor, but the wants of those looking for relief of daily life's mundanities.

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