

altrock™

the kenadas

[CABAL 'UNUSUAL MUSIC NITE' @ LAVA, WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST]

Let's get straight to the point here and dispense with fancy introductions:

The Kenadas are absolutely bollocks. *'Yeah but Martin's so funny and they're so crap that they're actually brilliant.'* Uh-uh. No matter how much triple irony, post-modernism and NOFX-style self-effacement The Kenadas may use, there is no escaping the fact that they suck live. In the most cringe-worthy way possible. Not because Martin doesn't have enough talent, or image or songs - some of them are great - but because he can't be arsed. Which makes you wonder why he goes to the effort of playing gigs.

Considering the time it must take to program in all those synthy-pop beats, you would have thought he'd have known the songs front to back. *'How do my lyrics go again? What are the chords for this one?'* You tell us Martin - you wrote them. Probably the sloppiest experience I've had in a long time, and that includes your mother. I'm starting to feel like Holly, that bitch from Holly's Demo Hell. Who can I vent my PMT-related anger on now?

AltRock™. And who exactly might they be on this nite of unusual music? Perhaps they will be providing the musical element that has been sadly lacking so far. And for a short time they do, in a fucked-up kind of way.

We are looking at Spiderman on bass guitar. And Spiderman on electric guitar. And Spiderman on 2nd electric guitar and 'headfones'. And Spiderman on third electric guitar and vocals. They are all wearing hooded tops. And what are these oildrums doing at the side of the stage? Intriguing. Have the Anal Punishers reformed? From what I can see, this could be anything from a Slipknot side-project to a freak supergroup of Pete Harpers, secretly cloned in a Polish laboratory and masked for the safety of Aberdeen's

teenage girls. What follows next can best be described as a Deftones/Mogwai collaboration on acid played in a drunken manner by Deadloss Superstar. (There may be a clue in there.) The invisible drummer, whom we will christen Sam Pler, is doing a fine job. The Spidermen, meanwhile, do a job. Almost good, not quite crap.

Spiderman #2 is pushing the headphones against the pickups on his guitar, adding a crackly voice to the mix. Spiderman #3 is 'singing' when he's not busy playing with his delay pedal. Bass Spiderman seems to actually know the songs, which is remarkable. If this was blues music, it would be called 'jamming'. Where do you start if you're the sound guy? You probably don't actually - you sit back and let the chaos unfold, thinking smugly that at least your mic stands are safe. And that's about the time that AltRock™ take out the sledgehammer. Yes, one of those things you kill your argumentative spouse with before burying them in a shallow grave behind the barn. Remember those oil drums I mentioned earlier? Well this is where they come into play. It starts off innocently enough, with Spiderman #2 beating wooden sticks against a barrel to create a 'rhythm'. Then the sticks break and so a guitar is used instead. Spiderman #2 is angry now. He takes a long run-up and launches a savage attack on the unfortunate oil drum. Spiderman #1 joins in with the aforementioned sledge hammer. There is debris flying everywhere. And a small child is standing dangerously close. Time to look up that Claims Direct number if you're his daddy. We are now witnessing a new type of industrial rock which shall be known as 'post-building-site'. A cross between music and demolition. I am half expecting a crane with one of those big ball and chain things to come crashing through the wall at any second.

'SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!' goes the sledgehammer.

'BING BANG BONG!' go the sticks.

People are getting scared now. The famously warped Lava floor is in danger of collapsing. I have sudden flashbacks of news stories in which wedding guests in Korea collapse through the dancefloor and land in raw sewage 50ft below. Who knows what's beneath Lava? Another, even more dangerous thought enters my head: AltRock™. At The Lemon Tree. With

power tools. Now that's got to be worth seeing. How do you tell a masked man with a sledgehammer to tone things down? *'Mind that £100,000 mixing desk...!!'* Too late! Pete Harper is speared by a chunk of flying debris.

AltRock™? Rock On! (<©Pete Harper)

Reviewed by Kai Sirius.