



LOG ON GaydarGuy GaydarGirl Register free Forgot Password Username Password

SEARCH GaydarNation Album Reviews Power Search The Web

- Home Radio Travel Entertainment Fun News Lifestyle Personals Forums Blogs Royalty Card

24 June 2011 14:36

- Listen Live Audio Stream Playing Now Heroes 2011 Chat Now Presenters Schedule Your Choice Chart Music Interviews Album Reviews Sleeve Notes Music Videos Features GaydarRadio Forum Club Tickets What's New Downloads Competitions Contact Royalty Cards Related Links Gay Dating Lesbian Dating Hard Cell Drug & Alcohol Advice Sex & Sexual Health Positive Gay Guide Terms & Conditions Privacy Policy Disclaimers

Radio : Music : Album Reviews

CD: It's Not Me, It's You

16 Feb 2009

Rating: ★★★★★ Queer Rating: ★★★★★

Summary

It's Not Me, It's You is the follow-up to Lily Allen's critically acclaimed 2007 debut, Alright, Still. The album finds Lily in top form, creating a record that has been described as "part God, part country and all riddle finger".

"We decided to try and make bigger sounding, more ethereal songs, real songs", says Lily. "I wanted to work with one person from start to finish to make it one body of work. I wanted it to feel like it had some sort of integrity. I think I've grown up a bit as a person and I hope it reflects that."

Verdict

It's Not Me, It's You is by no means perfect, but it wouldn't be Lily Allen if the album was flawless, would it? Her observations may be frank, but they're not overly perceptive - what Lily gives us is honesty without depth.

Gallery



Video

Full Review

It's out with the ska-pop and in with the electro-pop for Lily Allen's second album, It's Not Me, It's You. Known for her candid lyrical style, made all the more interesting set against bouncy and bright musical arrangements, Lily has branched out further than the confessional approach for which her first album, Alright, Still, was



Related Articles CD: Down To Earth Oh, Atoms Lady Gaga Dykons: Lily Allen

Related Links Lily Allen

Today on GaydarNation

You are not logged in



Radio Stevie Nicks Youngusband Crewdson

Travel Louisville And Lexington, Kentucky Top Pride Destinations A Passage To... Lesbos

Entertainment Liza Minnelli Daily Male GIGOLO - He's The Hottest Poser

- Fun show News show Lifestyle show Personals show

Newest Blogs

known. Here, Lily veers into social commentary territory, taking on everything from drug culture and consumer society to George W. Bush and, erm, God. But does she pull it off?

Well, yes and no. But it wouldn't be Lily Allen if the album was flawless, would it? Like a MySpace blog or a tabloid fight, Lily is all about saying what she thinks, and if that sometimes comes across as a little clunky and less than eloquent, then so be it. Her dress sense is as experimental as her musical offerings – which are an array of dreamy electro, do-wap rap and Spaghetti Western synth. All that matters to make a Lily Allen song just that – a Lily Allen song – is to ensure you put a bemused smile on the listener's lips or a blush on their cheeks. And 'Not Fair' achieves this and then some.

Rolling off Lily's acid tongue to a galloping rhythm, complete with banjo licks, is a lament about a dud lover who, for all outward intents and purposes, is actually a good boyfriend. "Oh, here I lie in a wet patch in the middle of the bed. I'm feeling pretty hard done by, I spent ages giving head", she complains. "I look into your eyes, I want to get to know you, and then you make this noise and it's apparent it's all over". Try not to raise a smile listening to this track, or to 'Fuck You', for that matter, her kiss-off to President Bush. See, you're smiling already, I bet.

Although the song writing is by no means perfect and is, at times, too simple and lacking in insight for a track that sets itself up to be a witty piece of political commentary, 'Fuck You' still has an undeniable charm about it that only Lily Allen could pull off. "So you say it's not okay to be gay", she sings. "Well, I think you're just evil. You're just some racist who can't tie my laces". Similarly, only Lily Allen could pull off a track about God which asks the question, "Come election time, I wonder who He'd vote for?"

We all come under scrutiny in the opening synth track, 'Everyone's At It', because we are all, apparently, on drugs. Again, the lyrics are clunky and, at times, the song comes off sounding like a community service announcement that tries to be down with the youngsters, but its upfront, unapologetic quality is nonetheless refreshing: "Why can't we all just be honest? Admit to ourselves that everyone's on it? From old politicians to young adolescents...How can we start to tackle the problem?"

Consumer culture and the cult of celebrity come under the microscope for the brilliant lead single, 'The Fear'. In a world where wearing "a fuckload of diamonds" renders qualities like being "clever" and "funny" irrelevant, Lily damns herself – and, in the process, points the finger at all of us – when she admits she is "a weapon of mass consumption. It's not my fault, it's how I'm programmed to function". Her observations may be frank, but they're not overly perceptive – what Lily gives us is honesty without depth. But hey-ho, that's Lily Allen, the (m)perfect pop star for our postmodern times, where everything is about spectacle, surface and pop culture pastiche, and real meaning, if it's there at all, is what you make it. It's not for nothing that the album is called, *It's Not Me, It's You*.

Lily is also in fine form when she goes back to what made *Alright, Still* so special – its concern with the domestic and the normal. Dreamy and melancholy, 'Chinese' makes the everyday seem romantic, like eating beans on toast, ordering Chinese takeaway and watching TV together. It is infinitely more touching than the songs where Lily is up on her soap-box because it gives a window looking inward, rather than a window facing outward.

However, as with *Alright, Still*, such microcosmic musings about the bubble that is Lily's life doesn't quite reveal much about the real Ms. Allen. To put it another way, we are still free to speculate about her love life, what she eats and where she goes, leaving intact the celebrity status she critiques so ambivalently in 'The Fear'. Just as she confesses, "I don't know what's right or what's real anymore", so we are kept in the dark about the real Lily Allen. In the end, I enjoyed the album because it made me giggle and tap my feet. Give it a listen and see what you get out of it. After all, it's not me, it's you.

**It's Not Me, It's You, by Lily Allen**

Label: Parlophone

Released: 9 February 2009

ASIN: B001FP7GW

Love Lily? Get *It's Not Me, It's You* online now. You'll save some money to put towards her debut album, *Alright, Still*.

**Even More**

**[Read Our Lily Allen Dykon »](#)**

Click to read more about the one who wears dresses with her trainers and says what she thinks.

Author: Bree Hoskin

[Read more by this author](#)



**User reviews**



Be the first to review this item - click on [WRITE A REVIEW](#)