

LIVE GIG REVIEW "KISS MY ARTS" ON JOY 94.9

30 January 2012



Tune in to the
Kiss My Arts
show with Kylan
and Amy on Joy
94.9. Mondays at
9pm.



The Details:

Artist: Albert Salt
Venue: The Toff
Date: 26 Jan, 2012
Label: Albert Salt

Rating



I was expecting something sweet, but was left with a bitter aftertaste.

By Amy Bastow

I discovered Albert Salt by mistake a few weeks ago. Upon my random stumble, I listened to one of his songs and was immediately impressed by his strange yet unique and addictive blend of alternate rock, classical and electronic genres. The music I was listening to was incredibly well composed and arranged, with a musical boldness that oozed success. There were amazing complexities and all sorts of unusual instruments that appealed to my composer brain. The song I was listening to is called *Beaumont Child*, from the album *Dearest Stranger*. We'll be playing it later on in the show, so make sure you stay tuned to hear that.

During my newfound discovery of Albert Salt, to my pleasant surprise, I realised that he was playing at the Toff last Thursday, so promptly booked tickets to go. My sweet expectations turned bitter when instead of hearing all the unusual instrumental complexities I had come to

appreciate Albert for, all I heard instead was a bass-heavy mass of sound.

I really wanted to be impressed by Albert, so gave him the benefit of the doubt, assuming that perhaps the mix that night just wasn't that great. Despite my repeated attempts at defending Albert, in the end, I had to accept that his live performance just wasn't that great.

There was a lot of pre-recorded material coming from his laptop, which I understand is cost-effective and practical when you're a starting-out musician, but if I wanted karaoke, I could have gone to my local instead. So much of the character and individuality I expected, was sadly missing.

Although many of his melodies are quite catchy and memorable, a lot of them do tend to sound

quite similar. He has a tendency to end all of his songs the same way, with a loud thump on the bass tom, followed by decaying reverb.

Albert is obviously an extremely talented song-writer, arranger and music programmer, but as a live show, he still has a long way to come. I would love to see some of the unusual instruments live on stage. It was only a few weeks ago that I saw a human-sized sousaphone on stage at Beirut's gig at the Hi-Fi bar, and I can tell you, that is going to be a lasting memory.

I want to give Albert Salt a chance, because I really like his music. But I feel like the potential of his recorded material is yet to transcribe to his live performances.

I'm giving him 2.5 out of 5 kisses.