

Hans Island and Little Comets @ FAC 251: The Factory

Reviewed by Stuart Comins October 2010

The legends of most legendary bands have an early chapter set in a small, dark, sweaty venue, probably located just off the main drag of a large city somewhere between Hamburg and Glasgow.

FAC 251 goes out of it's way to look the part to fulfilling this role in Manchester, 2010. Trouble is, like so many things 21st century the dead weight of the past means it struggles to be more than a facsimile of the received understanding of what it should be. It's not sweaty at all and the door staff are far too polite though the ceiling is very low.

Still, lets not worry too much about that, after all this is Saturday Night
First on are Hans Island playing pretty much entry level indie with no bass player. The absence of a bass player is of course, potentially fatal to your average indie band but in the case of Hans Island it seems to have fired up the three remaining players into throwing that much more energy at it, in compensation. In a good way.
They have a couple of good songs too. "Chinese Burn" went down very well and "Feather and Fur" has the potential for greatness. And Hans Island possess, in the follicles of the lead guitarist, that ingredient which can raise the head of a band above that of their peers, namely, a marvelous floppy haircut!

