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LATE OF THE PIER ★★★★★

Fantasy Black Channel

Tales from the jump-cutting edge.



These days, it seems many of today's 20-something rockers park themselves in front of Warped Tour's main stage for inspiration to start a

band the next day. Meanwhile in Britain, Late Of The Pier are blatant sonic time-bandits, lifting the best parts of the past 30 years of rock history with some vintage synthesizers in tow. *Fantasy Black Channel* is so sprawling in its scope, it really doesn't matter if you don't like it at first listen: Wait a few minutes and it'll deviate into something else. Whether it's

charging 1986-style synth-pop with a slight glam twinge ("Whitesnake"), a jam session of Tom Waits and Scissor Sisters ("The Bears Are Coming") or scrappy gutter-prog ("VW"), LOTP cram tons of stylistic inversions into 43 minutes. We had no idea attention deficit disorder could sound this majestic. **(ASTRALWERKS)**

Jason Pettigrew
