

SPIN

January 2009

Late of the Pier

Fantasy Black Channel

★★★

ASTRALWERKS

Synth-rock Brits usher in new wave of ridiculous haircuts

If you still get a tingle from the electro pop theatrics of Gary Numan or Ultravox, say hello to Late of the Pier. The quartet's fervent debut, produced by DJ Erol Alkan, offers a fabulous simulation of '80s new wave, with burping, sputtering synths and sleazy, Bowie-inspired crooning from frontman Sam Eastgate. Between the sullen narcissism of "Space and the Woods," on which Eastgate growls, "Suicide is in my blood," and "The Enemy Are the Future," where he verges on incoherent jabbering, this cracked actor has enough wired charisma to satisfy a new generation of drama junkies. *JON YOUNG*