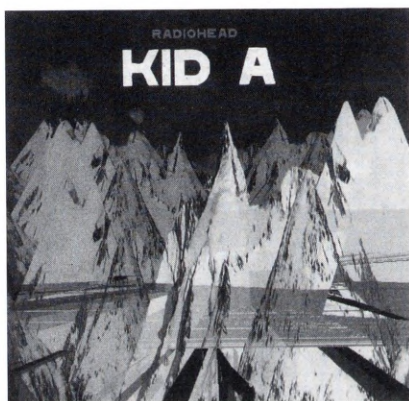


CD Review

Ross Becroft

radiohead - kid a



Kid A is Radiohead's fourth CD and is a fascinating listen. Existing Radiohead fans will see the logic in where the band has gone with this CD. But be warned: it requires a few listens before it gets under your skin. The band have virtually left their indie pop/rock roots behind and have gone further into the bizarre ambient computer-driven harmonies that shocked in their previous release (OK Computer 1997). In fact there are no guitars in the first two tracks. The stand out tracks are "The National Anthem" with its hypnotic bass guitars and crazed brass instrumentation, as well as "Optimistic" with its catchy jagged guitars and chilling vocals of Thom Yorke. The track "Idioteque" should also be mentioned, if only for its incredibly dry plastic drum sounds. In trademark fashion, throughout the CD, Yorke sounds like he is about to cut his wrists. However, he successfully drags the listener into his world. His lyrics are also generally quite surreal and rely on imagery rather than storytelling or allegory. Radiohead tend to focus on themes such as alienation of people in the face of technological progress. In true Radiohead style, it is said that

the title of the CD is the band's suggested name for the first human clone.

When Radiohead recorded Kid A, they also recorded a dozen or so straight rock songs that have purposefully been left off Kid A (which will be released as a separate CD in 2001). Reading between the lines, perhaps the band felt that they now have enough of a following to release their more cutting edge material. It is indeed quite freakish that at the time of writing this review, Kid A was No. 1 in the US Charts.

This is a recording that definitely challenges the senses. It may be that it represents the future direction for pop music. Kid A, like many fine recordings, is something of a musical journey. Pink Floyd would definitely have approved.

Compelling listening but not for everyone.

8.5 out of 10.

Radiohead discography

Pablo Honey (1993) – major single "Creep".

The Bends (1995) – major singles "High and Dry", "Just".

OK Computer (1997) – major singles "Paranoid Android", "Karma Police"

the supper club

After a night out on the town you can kick back in style at the Supper Club. Located behind a discreet doorway at 161 Spring Street, Melbourne, the Supper Club is designed to resemble a London gentleman's club. Its décor features chesterfield lounges, dark wooden wall panelling, eclectic pieces of furniture and a wonderful circular window overlooking Parliament House.

Forget the bustle associated with ordering drinks at a crowded city bar, and enjoy the club's personalised and humorous table service. At the Supper Club, music is kept at a reasonable level to enable patrons to converse comfortably and feel at ease.

The menu offers a selection of tapas style food including oysters, pate, cheese platters and olives (most dishes are under \$10). The wine list features an extensive range of European and Australian wines, with premium wines available by the glass. As an alternative, you may wish to immerse yourself in the Supper Club's genteel atmosphere and enjoy a cognac and cigar.

The Supper Club is open Tuesday to Friday 6.00pm till late and Saturday, Sunday & Monday from 8.00pm till dawn; making it a perfect place in which to relax after dinner or recover after a long evening.