

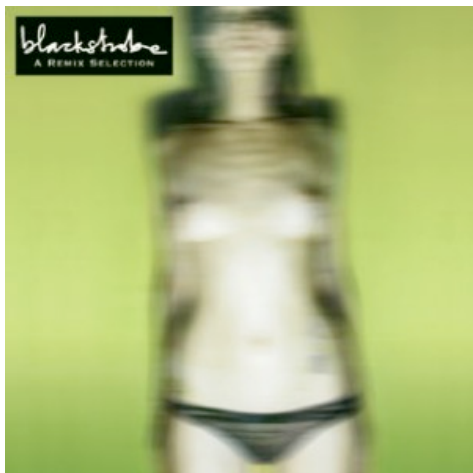


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Blackstrobe - Burn Your Own Church

by THOMAS RHYTHM

Guest vocalists apply here



"Despite being instrumental in the rise of electroclash in the late nineties, Blackstrobe fail to break any new ground in a genre they helped define, with debut 'Burn Your Own Church'."

Despite being instrumental in the rise of electroclash in the late nineties, Blackstrobe fail to break any new ground in a genre they helped define, with debut 'Burn Your Own Church'. Last year they parted company with DJ Ivanne Smagge and expanded into a four-piece band but the Depeche Mode influences are still unfortunately apparent.

After a promising opener, this record is soon weighed down by co-founder and much sort after producer/remixer Arnaud Rebotin's tiresome vocals. They drag with an awkward-sounding drone that fails to sound like anything other than a confused robot.

Unsurprising then, the stronger tracks are the well-produced simpler, darker tracks, based on electro house beats that raise the bar and would no doubt send a roomful of middle class fuck-ups into an ironic delirium on a Thursday. Two decent tracks towards the end of the album hint that they still have a great live sound, with a bolder pace and more thoughtfully integrated vocals that sit far more comfortably on the periphery rather than the centre of a more straightforward disco beat.

Rebotin should stick to the remixing and stay well clear of anything that might amplify his voice.

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