

**Guest Reviewer:**

**Mark Von Pfeiffer**  
(Music Editor, *BPM Culture Magazine*)



Mark von Pfeiffer sprang from Odin's loins when the world was still a child. When he's not in battle wearing a bearskin cloak and wielding a two hundred pound war axe, you'll find him masquerading as the Music Editor of *BPM Culture Magazine*, guzzling ten casks of mead a day—awalling Ragnarok.

photo / courtesy Mark Von Pfeiffer

**CATHERINE WHEEL**  
*Ferment*

Some albums make you want to staple goat horns onto your head, throw on a leather G-String and lash yourself to a tree somewhere deep deep in the Ozarks. This isn't one of them—it leans more towards swilling martinis on a space station. *Ferment*, along with The Stone Rose's debut and Blur's *Leisure* each form a point on the candy-coated trident of early 90s brit-pop. All very worthy, but this bitch is the Holy Grail. It's an effect junkie's dream; with Instruments so fuzzed, phased and flanged they successfully ferment into one massive, rolling ball of textured electricity. Every track has it's virtues, none of them bow to conventional pop structure; "Black Metallic," "Indigo is Blue," "Shallow" are all gentle, thundering masterpieces. But if I was a betting man... and I usually am, my money would be on "Flower to Hide." Keep it to yourself. *Ferment* is ultimately an idealistic, sincere album; if you want jaded, self-consciously cool claptrap, ask Vincent Gallo for his recommendation. In the ten-year arc between *Ferment* and their latest LP *Wishville*, Catherine Wheel has ceased to shine—a lack of commercial success coupled with internal conflict has resulted in the band pursuing a more mainstream audience, and failing on more than one level. The wicked bright razor of Brian Fuller's guitar has faded to a leaden clod. Bottom line, if you're one of the limp-wrist-ed posers whose first Radiohead album is *Kid A* and think their sound is the voice of God, then sally your ass down to the record store because Catherine Wheel was shooting that particular curl when Madonna was still cool. Way back. (Mercury Records & Fontana/CD/USA/1992) [www.mercuryrecords.com](http://www.mercuryrecords.com)

**Next issue: Jonah Sharp AKA Spacetime Continuum**  
(Reflective Records, SF)