

The Kinks – Misfits (1978)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 26 July 2014 08:33 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 May 2018 19:37

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01. Misfits - 4:40 02. Hay Fever - 3:21 03. Live Life - 3:09 04. A Rock 'N' Roll Fantasy - 4:58
05. In A Foreign Land - 3:02 06. Permanent Waves - 3:48 07. Black Messiah - 3:23 08. Out
Of The Wardrobe - 3:35 09. Trust Your Heart (Dave Davies) - 4:10 10. Get Up - 3:19 - Ray
Davies - lead vocals, guitar, piano, synthesizer, producer - Dave Davies - lead guitar, lead
vocals (09) - John Gosling - piano, organ, synthesizer - Andy Pyle - bass guitar except as
noted - Mick Avory - drums except as noted + - John Dalton - bass guitar (05) - Ron
Lawrence - bass guitar (03,04,10) - Nick Trevisick - drums (04,09,10) - Zaine Griff - bass guitar
overdubs - Clem Cattini - drum overdubs - John Beecham - trombone (07) - Nick Newall -
clarinet (07) - Mike Cotton - trumpet (07)

The Kinks became arena rockers with *Sleepwalker*, and its follow-up, *Misfits*, follows in the same vein, but it's a considerable improvement on its predecessor. Ray Davies has learned how to write within the confines of the arena rock formula, and *Misfits* is one of rock & roll's great mid-life crisis albums, finding Davies considering whether he should even go on performing. "Misfits," a classic outsider rallying cry, and "Rock and Roll Fantasy" provide the two touchstones for the album -- Davies admits that he and the Kinks will never be embraced by the rock & roll mainstream, but after Elvis' death, he's not even sure if rock & roll is something for mature adults to do. Over the course of *Misfits*, he finds answers to the question, both in his lyrics and through the band's muscular music. Eventually, he discovers that it is worth his time, but the search itself is superbly affecting -- even songs like the music-hall shuffle "Hay Fever," which appear as filler at first, have an idiosyncratic quirk that make them cut deeper. Although Ray would return to camp on their next album, *Misfits* is a moving record that manages to convey deep emotions while rocking hard. The Kinks hadn't made a record this good since *Muswell Hillbillies*. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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