

Jaune Toujours Routes

Choux des Bruxelles (41 mins)



Follow the yellow brick route



Often when a band boasts of playing a mix of dub, punk, jazz, ska and Balkan music it means

they do some straight ska, some pure jazz and so on, rather than finding a way of melding all these influences into something invigoratingly new. Fortunately this long-established band are the exception to this rule, and their latest studio album is formally their most cohesive and inventive to date.

The band veer between a relaxed jazzy swagger and tough angular grooves with their drummer Raballand delivering an idiosyncratic rolling gait to proceedings that's perhaps the most original thing about the band's sound.

One feels that Jaune Toujours are more confident than ever about who they are, and simply enjoying being back in the studio after a gap of four years, folding in a bit of dub here and some New Orleans swing there. The core line-up of accordion, drums, bass and brass benefits immensely from the guest appearance of Benin's Gangbé Brass Band on 'Ciel Orange'. One criticism; the songs sung in French work much better than the ones sung in English, where vocalist Piet Maris comes across like an underpowered Joe Strummer. In French he seems to relax more into the groove.

HOWARD MALE

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