

Written by Poppy Beresford, Freelance Critic and Reporter

Contact via poppy.beresford@outlook.com for inquiries, article post available on [Substack](#)

“A melting pot of Indie History”

Lime Garden, Rough Trade

12.04.26

Imagine the mid-2000's indie boom reincarnated in a band only just hitting their stride in 2026 – this is Lime Garden. A Brighton born band of 4, they stride onto the stage with the calm knowledge that this crowd does not need to be won over tonight, they've already got everyone's attention and absolutely for good reason. A set list jam packed with hits, Lime Garden are the new band on the horizon. Freshly releasing their second album 'Maybe Not Tonight', there is no doubt this group is fully fledged and ready to take the charts. They formed in 2017, blurring lines of disco, pop, surf, post-punk, shoegaze and classic indie in a self described 'wonk-pop' style which bursts at the seams with energy and power, effortlessly and masterfully blending into a coherent and punchy sound. They embody this new wave of bands surging to fame: they hint at The Last Dinner Party's howling vocality, Wet Leg's effortless sexuality, Bloc Party's crisp baselines and Charlie XCX's fun, modern lyricism.



Every second of this gig felt like a new inspiration, a melting pot of indie history past and present, to form the newly iconic Lime Garden. Although not necessarily experimental in the ways of The Cure or Radiohead in their prime, this isn't what the band is trying to aim for; their roots rather fuse a very stable yet endearing sound which ripples of that classic, depthful indie sound.

Despite a tinge of disappointment that Rough Trade's renovation did not include a larger (or better air conditioned!) events space, the room filled with a crowd eager and word-perfect on the new tracks released only days prior; fans in the pit weren't rowdy nor self-conscious, more so openly kind and communal in the space to dance, sing and watch with wide eyes.

Lime Garden then emerge from the audience, so cool and unassuming even I believed they were simply a group trying to find their friends before the set began – it wasn't until they jumped onto the stage that I realised they were the band so idolised by those of Radio 6 Music, Paramore, IDLES and Yard Act. Even down to the Adidas zip-up lead singer Chloe Howard wore, or the nonchalance of guitarist Leila Deeley's demeanour, they were down to earth and casual in performance – perhaps due to the short 1 hour set and signing to follow.



Yet when the speakers burst to the oozing Radiohead-esque chords of 'Body', Lime Garden weren't here to mess around. Crisp base and drum lines drive forth a sound comparable to The Strokes and LCD Soundsystem which balance well with Howard's bold lyricism on themes of body image, youth and romance. Mostly playing tracks off their newest album, a definite highlight was a rendition of New Orders 'Age of Consent', refreshing and completely in tune to their grounded style of dance-alt-pop.



A band absolutely rich with talent, knowledge and self-certainty, Lime Garden dismantle and re-evaluate the current music scene in a way which pushes boundaries in the craftsmanship of their sound. Without a doubt, they are a new essential to add to your indie-pop playlists.