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Press Reviews: Octoberman – These Trails Are Old and New

See Magazine (Calgary)

****1/2 "Morrissette's solo-but-made-with-pals album basks in a faux-analogue warmth and timelessness, like a magic radio with a dial permanently stuck on a revelatory moment. Beautifully written, beautifully crafted, beautifully produced."
- Christa O'Keefe

The Kitchener-Waterloo Record

"Octoberman makes beautiful bedroom pop with gently strummed electric guitar, confident yet hushed vocals, drum machines and cheap keyboards. It's a well-worn template, but Morrissette wears it well. On songs like X-Pat and Tokyo Nightmare, he spins tales of globetrotting youth into melodic gold." - Michael Barclay

Nerve Magazine (Pacific Northwest)

One of the more lasting musical efforts released by a Vancouver artist this year so far, and with a second Octoberman album rumoured to be released before year's end, perhaps there's something to be said about new power rising from the ashes. - Ferdy Belland

Globe and Mail

"Vancouver's Octoberman is Marc Morrissette, a bent-voiced singer-songwriter whose powers are more subtle than those of Superman and the others. His new album is called These Trails Are Old and New, and if melancholy, alt-countryish road tunes are your thing, Octoberman just might be your champion." - Brad Wheeler

24 Hours - Vancouver

"Octoberman's debut, These Trails Are Old And New, is a beautiful collection of Morrissette's globetrotting observations delivered in a style reminiscent of Modest Mouse, Bright Eyes, or even early Neil Young (with a hell of a lot more interesting voice - and I love Neil Young's voice)." - RC Joseph

North Shore News Review

Rating: 8 (out of 10) "The strongest aspect of this album is Morrissette's ability to capture the sights, colours, smells, tastes, the moods of the places he's travelled - it's reminiscent of Jack Kerouac's On the Road. The backing band is sparse, which allows Morrissette's husky, melancholy voice and guitar to dominate the soundscape." - Jocelyn Chan

Youthink Magazine (Lower Mainland)

(4 Stars) "If Kurt Cobain were alive, way mellowed out, and perhaps back from a spiritual quest after discovering himself, he might sound a bit like Octoberman... Perfect for pondering the meaning of life on a rainy day." - Lisa Zhang

The Hour (Montreal)

"Confessional, heart-on-the-sleeve quiet poppers are the order of the day here, tastefully crafted with a backing band pairing KTD members, backing singers, cello, mandolin, drum machines and horns. This is Morrissette's baby, though; his quiet, plaintive voice is the centre of attention." - Steve Guimond

Exclaim! Magazine (National)

"Morrissette is certainly a gifted storyteller and These Trails is as musically pleasant as it is lyrically moody, which makes for some interesting listening." - Vish Khanna

Willamette Weekly (Portland)

"Marc Morrissette becomes Octoberman when he lifts the guitar and utters some fragile melody that cracks between strums. The words he sings add up to decent stories, which is a testament to the Vancouver, B.C., musician's ability with the folk formula." - JOSHUA HEINEMAN.

Live Reviews:

Chartattack.com's Review of New Music West Performance:

"If you've never heard Marc Morrissette's delicious brand of wilted, lush pop music characterized by organic guitars and hauntingly surreal vocals, you don't know what you're missing. Think of a gentler Modest Mouse heard through an alt.rock filter, then thrown in spastic rock freakouts... I simply couldn't tear myself away from this set." - Kevin Lalonde - Chartattack.com's Report Card for Octoberman @ Canadian Music Week: **81**