

# Eye on Entertainment

## Phrazes for the Young - The Strokes' Casablancas Goes Solo

By Chris DiLenno - Lion's Eye Entertainment Editor - cad5241@psu.edu

The Strokes. Many people labeled the New York City fivesome, formed in 1999, the new Led Zeppelin while also being the driving force behind the garage rock revival of the 21st century. The Strokes have met much acclaim through their three albums to date, and after Final Impressions of Earth the band went on unofficial hiatus. It had been speculated that a few of the band members would be working on side projects but the one that the industry had the keenest eye on was the sharp-vocal whiz-kid and lead singer of the band, Julian Casablancas. Casablancas was considered the leader of this band from the start of their formation and after watching them perform live it was easy to see why. His incredible energy and stage presence left crowds reeling as he darted to different corners of the stage and eyed the horizon as if he was preparing to take flight into it.

Casablancas' new album, Phrazes for the Young, was released on November 3rd in the United States and was highly anticipated by fans of Casablancas and The Strokes, including myself. Interestingly, Phrazes for the Young doesn't deliver the way I expected it to; in fact, it hardly delivers at all. At first listen, it seems apparent that Casablancas is trying to channel the synthesizers and instrumental madness of the 70's and 80's that many bands of our decade have successfully duplicated and even surpassed, (Animal Collective, TV on the Radio). Phrazes for the Young clicks and whistles through lyrics based on the works of Oscar Wilde as it is based on one of his works known as Phrases and Philosophies for use of the

Young. Lyrically, it could be said that the album is ahead of its time in a lot of ways. In "11th Dimension," the first single of the album, Casablancas sings over trippy keyboard and off-the wall electronics. He sings, "I just nod, I've never been so good at shaking hands. I live on the frozen surface of a fireball, where cities come together, to hate each other in the name of sport," which maintains the deep, philosophical tone of Wilde while staying true to his sorrow-to-the-brim roots that he first showcased with The Strokes.

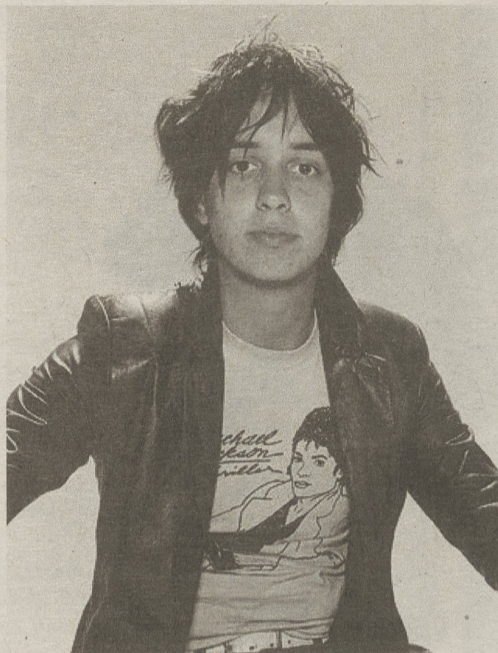


photo courtesy of rockonthestreets.com

Where Phrazes of the Young falls short is the almost ludicrous amount of sounds that you're listening to while it pumps through your speakers. The songs that work best in this album are the ones that are comparatively slower and more focused. Another downside is Casablancas's retreat from his usually grainy vocals, which he seems to have transformed into this clear, semi-growl. Casablancas was known for his half-fury growl that spiraled through the songs of the instrumentally superior Strokes, making the songs themselves that much better. Phrazes for the Young had to be created by Casablancas because one would assume that the Strokes would never want to produce such a manufactured, clean-cut album like this one. Masters of innovation, The

Strokes would always work some sort of spontaneous innovation into their work and Phrazes seems to leave no room for that. My advice for Casablancas is to do your best to bring back your old band or you might find yourself going the way of Paul McCartney.

## Prim Silhouette: Velvet Couture— The bevy of the ball!

By Kionna Lipscomb - Lion's Eye Entertainment Editor - kzl122@psu.edu

Usually a holiday trend—and, no longer considered a fad fabric—velvet is the newest runway-to-realway trend. It is time to get reacquainted.

Designers and brands working velvet into mainstream are the likes of Ralph Lauren, Fendi, Chloé, Nanette Lepore, Prada and Bottega Veneta, to name a few. Old fashion, yet common colors are dark green, red, black and the oh-so famous burgundy. The most modern color—yellow, that was first complimented by designer extraordinaire Marc Jacobs is back with chic vengeance for this new season. Now, velvet is available in an array of colors.

Velvet has stretched beyond basic dresses and skirts. The newest rage of style for men and women is blazers, trousers—and even, parachute pants. Nevertheless, cocktail dresses are still a favorite among on-screen sirens and socialite queens. It gives a more sophisticated look.

To indulge in the season's velvet crush and for tips on how to incorporate it into your winter wardrobe—which could be semi-difficult, consider a few key points. Adding a small element of velvet will elevate your ensemble, but, your styling choices are what truly matters and will heavily influence your individual fashion statement. Ladies, an old fashion approach to incorporate velvet pieces, that may work well for all shapes and silhouettes, is a divine dress or skirt. For a more modern appeal mixed with a fashion royalty effort, a signature dress paired well with statement jewelry and killer shoes will suffice.

Gentlemen, a velvet blazer will work well with a pair of denim jeans or trousers. Behold—a stellar and elegant piece. But, don't just stop there. Now velvet has extended beyond just the top portion of the body. With so many selections and styles, velvet shoe apparel is becoming more fashion forward. Remember, one accessory at a time, top or bottom.



Photo courtesy of coutorture.com

## Word Search

A T C I T I G S A L E M I A T L A N T A Z E E H  
 N R O F A M R E B O I S E N N E Y E H C R R A I  
 C E A W H J U N E A U I T O D T Y L L C R R I O  
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## Word Bank

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALBANY (New York)          | DOVER (Delaware)          | homa)                     |
| ANNAPOLIS (Maryland)       | FRANKFORT (Kentucky)      | OLYMPIA (Washington)      |
| ATLANTA (Georgia)          | HARRISBURG (Pennsylvania) | PHOENIX (Arizona)         |
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