

## MARCEL WAVE Something Looming

UPSET THE RHYTHM

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Sharp-witted spoken-word sermons elevate these scrappy indie-rock janglers



Uniting members of indie-rock combos Sauna Youth and Cold Pumas behind poet and screenwriter Maike

Hale-Jones, Marcel Wave combine

sharp-eyed Northern lyricism with DIY guitar-janglers rooted in a retro C86 aesthetic. Much of this modestly charming debut feels underpowered, but the stand-out tracks give Hale-Jones full rein for spoken-word sermons like “Where There’s Muck There’s Brass”, an impassioned *Our Friends In The North* diatribe about notoriously corrupt municipal architecture tycoon John Poulson, and the agreeably wonky “Discount Centre”, a Ballardian word-painting of dystopian ring-road Britain. Epic finale “Linoleum Floor”, meanwhile, is a gloriously bleak rumination on the horrors of enforced late-night hedonism worthy of prime Pulp. Scrappy but promising.

**STEPHEN DALTON**