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Kid Creole's latest lacks life

Wise Guy Kid Creole and the Coconuts Sire

By Ward W. Triplett III

August Darnell and Andy Hernandez have been making progressive black music since their days with Dr. Buzzard's Original Savannah Band. Now, as the "stars" of Kid Creole and the Coconuts, Darnell and Hernandez are still setting themselves apart from the mainstream, but their latest effort, Wise Guy is a disappointing step back.

It's not that Wise Guy is a bad album. Actually, a lot of the elements, such as the semi-serious lyrics and wide array of musical weaponry that makes Kid Creole the fun group it evidently tries to be, still are present in abundance here. What's lacking is the diversity and life that Fresh Fruit In Foreign Places, their 1981 album had. That album ranked 11th in the Village

Voice's composite reviewer poll of the top albums of last year.

Fresh Fruit was a special event that would have been near impossible to duplicate anyway, but what Darnell and company have done with Wise Guy is regress to the disco age. Each song has a instantly recognizable disco beat, electronic handclaps and all, and only rarely does the individual talent of the group's two leaders rise above it all.

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