

SYNTHESIS



AS TALL AS LIONS

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TRIPLE CROWN

As Tall As Lions' self-titled sophomore effort is as lush as they come, with songs buffed to such an impeccable shine that you can see yourself in them. Thankfully, for the most part the production stops just short of being too busy. "Love Love Love (Love Love)" (that's a lot of love) drowns in its own vastness, but the following track, "Ghosts of York," is a grand and triumphant rocker; it's successes like these that are the rule, not the exception. Drummer Cliff Sarcona and bassist Julio Tavarez combine in imaginative rhythms, imbuing these atmospheric, sometimes spacey, rock songs with a solid groove. Not bad for a group of kids from Long Island.

James Barone