"Sounds from another star" – The second day of the Kammgarn Jazz Festival Kaiserslautern

(...) Slowly and siren-like, Pauline Ngoc, daughter of a French father and a Vietnamese mother, draws her Cotton Club audience into the shadow world of melancholy. Singing chansons of Patricia Kaas, Gershwin, Serge Gainsbourg or Bob Dylan, she's suffering and languishing in style, seeming to savour the beseeching sentimentality. Nevertheless, the murmured depression and the charming sensitivity radiate a pleasant warmth. This is exactly the arc of suspense in which she moves. With an appealing dark, often deeply sad voice, she bewitches her audience. Somehow, the singer, who escaped from Saigon to France, has remained a girl - a mixture of shy innocence and femme fatale. The same kind of contrast can be found in her interpretations. Her singing is highly nuanced, mysterious, and differentiating. It is impressive how she's whispering from deep within her abdomen, purring and hissing like a kitten. She's moving like on a wave of emotion when she's intoning "Tous les garcons" together with pianist Zippo Zimmermann. With Zimmermann and saxophonist Celia Baron, she has two jazzing musicians by her side, capable to carry the singer superbly through all chansons. With stirring sounds of the wildest beauty, Baron, who seems to burst with energy, tells ballads of high poignancy, while Zimmermann enchants the audience with his discreet complexity. Also very compelling: Felix Hubert on bass and Alain Neumann on percussion.

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