

Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Harem Scarem (CDN)

Genre: Hard Rock

Label: Frontiers Music

Albumtitle: Thirteen

Duration: 41:17

Releasedate: 05.12.14



The Canadians should get an award only for their bandname! Unfortunately the truth behind the name has not the double meaning as hoped for. Indeed, the name is an allusion of the first Bugs Bunny Cartoon "Hare-um Scare-um". Harry Hess and Peter Lesperance, founding members of the band, are big Bugs Bunny fans and decided that this is cool enough to call the band that way. The guys are on a solid ground. Their music is the style of melodic Hard Rock and can be well compared with Def Leppard, Mr. Big and Journey.

The band was founded in the end of the 80thies and has released its debut "Mood Swings" in 1991. Until their seperation in 2008, they have provided frequently albums to the market, but unfortunately the success is missing in Germany despite over one million sold albums worldwide. Now, after their reunion, the 13. album will be released with a less creatively name "Thirteen".

"Garden of Eden", the opener, gives the course and grooves into the ear that it shoots through your bones. Even the guitar work of Mister Lesperance is awesome especially the rhythm lays on so that you find yourself again and again tapping your feet. The guitar gets more space without going into overload because Creighton Doan controls himself on the drums and is rather focused on specific accents. One hears that the guys have a lot of fun and exactly this passion of music speads to the listener. Moreover, the raspy voice of Harry Hess is slightly rough and harmonizes perfectly with the music. The high vocal parts are handled without problems, only in some deeper parts one has the feeling that it seems a little bit pressed. But who really sounds as after the first rehearsal after such a long carreer?

The production is really made for the band and therefore gives the guitar enough space to unleash the potential. The sound has a pleasent mid-tone and only the drums could have more kick but this is only grumpling on high level. One recognizes it especially in the songs "Live It" and "All I Need". But the true triumph is the passion of music and delight in experimentation, so that these two songs become a highlight of this powerful album. Above all "Live It" has the desired effect with the result that I unpack the air guitar to jam along with again and again. In fact it sounds seldom boring. One is rather motivated to turn it up by virtue of balladic moments like in "Whatever It Takes". Solely at the end of the album the guys run a little out of road. Furthermore, I can't rate the bonus track as it was not available as audio sample.

Conclusion:

One who doesn't know Harlem Scarem so far, should target the band. "Thirteen" is a all-round carefree package album for true melodic Hard Rock and disappoints only in the end when the heat is taken out of the kettle. But one who provides so much pleasure for most of the time deserves this rating. Ready, set, rock!

Rating 8/10

Recommendations: Garden Of Eden, Live It, All I Need

Weblink: <http://www.haremscarem.net/> , <https://www.facebook.com/harem.scarem.band>

Lineup:

Harry Hess - Lead and Backup Vocals/Keys

Pete Lesperance - Guitars/Bass/Keys

Creighton Doan - Drums

Darren Smith - Backup Vocals

Tracklist:

01. Garden of Eden

02. Live It

03. Early Warning Signs

04. The Midnight Hours

05. Whatever It Takes

06. Saints and Sinners

07. All I Need

08. Troubled Times

09. Never Say Never

10. Stardust

11. Garden of Eden (Acoustic Version – bonus track)

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