

# Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: The Vision Ablaze (DK)

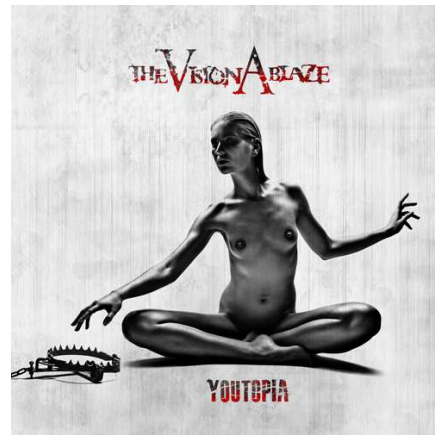
Genre: Progressive Metal

Label: Mighty Music

Albumtitle: Youtopia

Duration: 47:02

Releasedate: 18.09.2015



The Vision Ablaze from Denmark are now releasing their very first full-length-album - after already two EPs - entitled "Youtopia". I've only known them by name, but since I always get excited when it comes to modern Progressive Metal, I had high expectations here - and didn't get disappointed.

There's one thing you can say after the first listen without any doubt: This record is catchy as hell and a lot of fun to listen to. But there's also a lot left to explore so after the last song you instantly want to press play again. Then follows the second, third and fourth play and you still have the feeling of not having enough of it. And this is the way good albums should be!

"Youtopia" is packed with a lot of energy, playing-joy and creativeness. You always get surprised by unexpected parts and little details that let you listen closely and that keep the music interesting.

To describe the music with a few words becomes a hard task because the variety is relatively large. The many changes between clear singing and growling/shouting for example remind of Melodic Death Metal and partly even of Metalcore. Still you can't really assign The Vision Ablaze to those genres because there's much more in there. Here a few blast-beats, there a Thrash Metal-Riff and then a totally relaxed clean-part. You simply have to hear it by yourself and everyone who likes to think out of the box of common metal should definitely listen to this one.

Despite the compository and technical diversity the songs are catchy and get stuck in your head due to thrilling vocal lines. Many Prog-Metal-Acts fail to reconcile that technical ingenuity with catchiness, so The Vision Ablaze really stand out.

What really pleases me is the rhythmical dynamic on "Youtopia". From denty Breakdowns over midtempo-grooves up to blastbeat-thunder; there's anything the heart could wish for and the rhythmical work is just outstanding.

In terms of sound and playing-skills the album is on a very high level. It's obvious that the musicians have already gathered a lot of experience. The interplay between them is very consistent and no one pushes himself into the foreground. Sure, there are some guitar solos and expressive vocal parts but those elements are being used rather sparingly.

The guitar work moreover is very interesting, detailed and versatile. There are a whole bunch of little unexpected licks and gimmicks that make the guitarists blood stir. The riffs and solos are demanding - yet not exaggerated - and never become boring.

Peter Kelkelunds vocals are satisfying most of the time and cover the whole range from deep growls over aggressive shouts up to clear, melodic singing. But I must admit that the dramatic clean singing can be a bit stressful at some points (especially in the song "Monster"). But usually this gets countered instantly by riff-walls and shouting-attacks.

Conclusion:

An album that is - with very few exceptions - extremely strong and gets better and better each time. "Youtopia" sounds very modern, is well-produced and could even be pleasant to metalheads that usually reject the label "Progressive".

Rating: 8,5/10

Recommendation(s): Absent, Dreaming Awake, Subversion

Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/thevisionablaze>

Lineup:

Peter Kelkelund - Vocals

Christian Raad Lilliedal - Drums

Brian Porsche - Guitar

Marcus Grønbech - Guitar

Tracklist:

01. Absent
02. Under The Killing Moon
03. Dreaming Awake
04. Subversion
05. Fall From Grace
06. Into My Brain
07. Fear
08. Monster
09. Utopia Calling
10. A Jaded Miracle

Author: Marcel / Translator: Marcel