

Europe - Walk The Earth (2017)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 01 April 2018 09:50 - Last Updated Sunday, 01 April 2018 09:58

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1 *Walk The Earth* 4:16 2 *The Siege* 4:01 3 *Kingdom United* 2:52 4 *Pictures* 4:49 5 *Election Day* 4:06 6 *Wolves* 3:55 7 *GTO* 3:29 8 *Haze* 3:49 9 *Whenever You're Ready* 2:51 10 *Turn To Dust* 6:50
Bass Guitar – John Levén Drums – Ian Haugland Guitar, Lead Guitar – John Norum Keyboards – Mic Michaeli Lead Vocals – Joey Tempest + Backing Vocals – Jamie Larsson (1) Cello – Kevin Kirs-Verstege (10) Choir – Norwegian Blue Mass Choir (10)

EUROPE is one of those bands that have been around forever but I've never actually heard anything from them other than their hit single "The Final Countdown." Obviously, I started listening to this album with a clean slate and no preconceived notions. I am pleased to say their 11th full length studio album finds these Swedes still rocking after all these years. There isn't anything on this record immediately attention grabbing or catchy as "The Final Countdown," but there is some deep and well played musicianship. Personally, I would describe this as hard rock or Power Metal without the Metal aspect but plenty of power.

Production/mix wise, I can hear every instrument on the album with ease. This is a good thing, especially for bassist John Leven because he straight up shines throughout the album with his melodic bass. The opening track, "Walk The Earth," has some epic keyboards but the 80's cheese ends there with a hammering of riffs by John Norum, who has an uncanny ability to play heavy while still having a nice, clear, crisp old school style to it. Joey Tempest still has a nice set of pipes and sounds very energetic instead of tired, like so many bands of this era now sound. Second track, "The Siege," brings more of the same but instill some trippy keyboards and actually throws in some groove to the riffs.

A personal highlight for me is "Wolves," with its ear catching fuzz dripped bass and guitars. Joey's voice is a bit more laid back here, taking more a hazy approach to the vocals like DEEP

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PURPLE or BLUE OYSTER CULT. Mic Michaeli's keyboards are more of a light touch on this song but it adds a perfect atmosphere to it. In fact, I really love the way the keyboards eschew 80's synth pop for a more organic sound this time around. It adds a hard rock layer to their sound and honestly it sounds a bit more serious than it would otherwise. If there is anything bad about the album is some of the songs sound somewhat similar to each other. They made a fan out of me and I'll definitely go back to check out their previous records. ---Justin "Witty City" Wittenmeier, metal-temple.com

Od dobrych kilku lat, a raczej od kilku dobrych płyt Europe wziął kurs na retro granie. W zasadzie można by uznać taki ruch za działanie koniunkturalne, bowiem w Szwecji i w kilku innych krajach skandynawskich powstał prawdziwy Jurassic Park staromodnego rocka. Prywatnie bardzo się cieszę, że zespół dotarł do takiego miejsca w swojej karierze, z pewnością przysporzyło im to sporo nowych fanów, a jeden z nich pisze niniejsze słowa. Niestrawny pudli kicz, zamienili na szlachetny metal pokryty patyną. Na „Walk The Earth umieścili kilka nieziemskich utworów na czele z tytułowym. Bardzo przyjemne się słucha, jak panowie czerpią radość ze wspólnego grania w tym stylu. ---Witold Żogała, rockarea.eu

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