

Fergie Frederiksen Happiness is the Road

There is no road to happiness, happiness is the road. That is what it says on the back-side of the lady looking down the road, maybe she is someone who is out walking or maybe she just got a bad tattoo. You cannot see her shoes so you just don't know what she is doing there, such things is what springs to mind when I am looking at the rather nice album cover of Fergie Frederiksen's album Happiness is the Road. I also wonder who the motorcyclist is, and whether or not she has a backpack or some kind of bag with her when walking this fascinating landscape. In some ways even though thought provoking, the cover art still squeals of an AOR album which of course is what it has to be considering the back story of Fergie Frederiksen, having been part of genre legends Toto and all of that.

Musically it is what you probably already have expected considering how the artwork looks and the names involved with it, it is of course melodic rock music or as it is also known, AOR. With its catchy choruses and crystal clear production it falls into the frame of regular AOR, one can say that it is classic AOR with faultless production. A production signed by renowned producer Dennis Ward who has the production of many known bands on his CV. Musically it is not breaking any new ground and if you have heard a band like Toto you will know more or less how this album sounds. This album has twelve tracks which will last for 54 minutes if you don't skip any tracks from it.

Twelve high quality tracks is what we have on this album, well all but the ballad on track four called Follow Your Heart which is quite dull and boring, kind of like watching paint dry. I think that track would have been a good one to skip, the eleven other tracks are good though. The opening track called Angel (Mirror to Your Soul) is a great track and a brilliant way to open this album, it really builds expectations for the rest of the album. Expectations that are largely being met especially in track three First to Cry and Track nine Writing on the Wall and being exceeded in the wonderful title track which is especially impressive I would say.

And all of this considering the facts that surrounded the album with Fergie being diagnosed with incurable cancer and then being cured from incurable cancer, wasn't that the case with some other prominent musician recently? Well it was and that was also an American so what does that say of American doctors and their diagnostic skills? Not very good I would say but fortunate for Fergie of course and the album is a

great tribute to him and his skill to overcome hardships.

I think though there is a slight problem with this album in the fact that it feels a bit too long, not the fact that the songs are dull because they aren't but it still feels as the album is dragging on too long and it slightly lessens my enjoyment of it as I feel as though I want something new a few tracks before the end. Still, I find this to be a really good album with great songs and a wonderful album to listen to in the car while driving which I do a lot and this album is a great car album, "happiness for the road" would be a good ending so that is what I'll end with.

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