

FRIENDS OF ALICE IVY

The Last Days of Fenwyck

Press release | June 2017

Melbourne-based Friends of Alice Ivy continue their pursuit of whimsical, atmospheric and ethereal music in their newly- released and beautifully realised album, “The Last Days of Fenwyck”; their first new work since the critically acclaimed splendour of “The Golden Cage and its Mirrored Maze” in 2014...

Friends of Alice Ivy are somewhat reticent to describe their new album “The Last Days of Fenwyck” as a “concept” album; partly for fear of sounding pretentious, but partly due to an unwillingness to entertain comparisons between their dynamic new work and overblown, sluggish, prog epics. “This album is a concept album in so much as the songs are deeply inter-related and connected” says vocalist Kylie, “though there is nothing lethargic about it” she adds. At less than 30 minutes in length, and filled with tense, pulsing drama, it’s a rather eccentric beast that marries the old-world English folk leanings of Mellow Candle, with the sometimes unsettling and brooding electronica of Massive Attack’s “Mezzanine”.

Whilst “The Golden Cage and its Mirrored Maze” presented the listener with a dizzying kaleidoscope of exoticism, flights of fancy, star-gazing wonder and neoclassicism; “The Last Days of Fenwyck” is a different proposition altogether. Whilst the new album maintains the band’s signature ethereal sound and otherworldly atmospheres, it’s perhaps a far more consistent work, stylistically grounded by the constant and expressive production of Adam Calaitzis from Melbourne’s Toyland studios. Kylie’s pride in the result shows as she speaks of it. “I’m most delighted by the fact that unlike previous work, this has been far more collaborative between the two of us...both from the perspective that we had fewer people involved in the studio, as well as the fact that the songs were developed with equal amounts of input from the two of us. So I can hear much more of myself in these songs...and that’s quite aside from the vocals”.

Kylie is also resolute that the band have produced something truly unique. “At least in my frame of reference, I cannot think of another album that sounds like this one does...though we’ve been quite upfront about what our influences have been, I don’t think you can necessarily hear any of them in there explicitly. I honestly believe we’ve done something quite strange and without equal...I know that sounds very arrogant,

but it’s not a comment about the quality, it’s merely to indicate that I think it has a character and sound all of its own”.

“The Last Days of Fenwyck” was released in May 2017 and was preceded by a digital single “Wycca” in March. Aside from its nucleus of Kylie and Amps (who wrote the album, performed various instruments, took care of all programming and voices), the album features contributions from Ellie Walker on cello, Frances Catherine providing additional voices, percussion and keyboards from producer Adam Calaitzis, and the album is presented in a beautiful sleeve courtesy of Rob Wiltshire of Wiltshire Creative.



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