

Wild Horse : When The Pool Is Occupied

Reviewed by Leigh Thomas

Brecon Indie Review Team

The latest offering from Wild Horse, “When The Pool Is Occupied” is, to begin with, a testament to this band’s incredible work ethic, maturity and not to mention talent and ability. This a collection that refuses to be fenced in, like a proverbial “Wild Horse”, it is free, noble and powerful. Clever lyrics express inner struggles and universal experiences, as innocence is lost in the inevitable process of transitioning to adulthood and becoming enlightened to the nature of the world and life itself. This does not discount a sense of fun and frivolity. Just as it explores a myriad of musical styles, it examines a gamut of moods and emotional states. The album flows so seamlessly that it gives the sensation of a unified and completely whole piece of work, where everything is just how and where it should be, and on its conclusion, one feels like one has truly had an experience. Resonating the sounds and presence of the great British bands of yore, it is an album in the true sense of the word. Every single moment has a relevance, a purpose and is delivered with thoughtfulness, precision, heart and soul. An explosion of funk, soul, pop, and rock, laced with R&B and garnished with hip hop and even rap, amazingly the album is glued together, due in no small part to the stunning vocal of Jack Baldwin and his amazing dexterity and versatility, as well as a band that knows and is totally comfortable with its musical prowess and identity. Masterful vocals throwing out both grit, energy, poise and control, overlay a feast of textures and rhythms. Touching melodies lift you up with a powerful vocal angst and choral harmonies and settle you down with gentle cries of falsetto.

Never predictable, sparkling guitars, clever bass runs, interspersed with piano, swirling synths and horn sounds that bring forth audible surprises and compositional complexity. Yet the album retains its live quality, holding a definite intention to be faithfully reproduced on stage. As the album plays through, one is constantly engaged with the shifting moods, from contemplative and tender, being punctuated with great grooves, to outright incitement to party and move your body. This is truly an album to just press “play” and let it run. A flawless exhibition of sound and emotion, and feel,

beyond the years of this young band. What a future they have in store for them.

Some notable tracks: "One Night Robbery" A great insight into the album as a whole with its funk driven, party vibe, singalong chorus and vocal overlays, "One Night Robbery" is fun and direct in its intentions. A timeless tale of deceit, love and forgiveness brought into the modern age.

"Kelsie" An outstanding track with a smooth groove underpinning Jack's expressive vocal, which truly command the song and its whimsical shifts in mood from indifference to a slight hint of vengeance and hurt, with delicate falsetto, conversational narrative and rap. A great tale illustrating how relationships online are somewhat difficult to escape from.

W.A.N.T. A brilliant funk inspired track driven with guitar and bass cross rhythms that never rests on its laurels, and weaves through dynamic shifts, break downs, key changes, magically smoothed out with beckoning melodies. A song of yearning and desire carefully played out and crafted into a feel-good and absolutely catchy masterpiece.