

## HALO EFFECT – LIFE IS PERFECT

Rome-based **Halo Effect** come back in the scene with a new album after the release of **Recoding** by **EK Product**. **Life is perfect** portraits the passage to the sister label **Space race records**, this one more linked to modern electro releases, characterized by a melodic setting and never hidden synth pop influences.

Sixteen songs the most part of which thought to be very enjoyable in the alternative dancefloor atmosphere: clean production obtained by means of the talented **Rob Early** (famous for his activity within the **Retrogramme** project), melodic voice often influenced by **Dave Gahan**, rhythms often lively and the perfect dosing of sounds, without never exaggerating but without, at the same time, being minimalist. This is Halo Effect's business card, a particularly appreciated act upon national and international areas.

Every song of this album sound unique, even if the common characteristic is always present: '80s music and, above all, **Depeche Mode**, that emerge maybe a bit less in the faster songs such as *Hardcore*, the ironic *Teddy boy* (that recalls some clichés of the genre), *Dancing light* and also *Among the flowers*, but that even if also here that music influence is recognizable. However, their English influences are more evident in their slower songs and in their less electro-sounding songs, such as *Defeated*, *My mistakes*, *White flag* and *Again*. These are the episodes that represent their *trademark* at their best, that sound that, putting them closer to their idols, in a way free them from an electro sonic slavery that, in the faster songs, links too much them to too much bands producing the same kind of music, often also artists of their label.

Although the listener finds himself in front of a more than good listening, it's perceivable that maybe not all the songs are strictly necessary in order to define their sound. In conclusion, he will react to the album having experiencing a *hallo effect*, to borrow the name of the band: the perception of *Life is perfect* and of the band will be influenced by a bunch of few common traits, as these will be the fundamental ones to understand their whole formula. These traits are *Again*, *My mistakes*, *Teddy boy*, *Hardcore*, *The game of life*.

As far as lyrics are concerned, this is a sort of concept album about the half full glass: although sometimes life give us problems, this is a play in which rules are easy to understand: there are better and worse moments, but life should be took as a balance between counterposing strenghts, and the album is permeated by references to the simplicity of the human being, to the tendence to make errors, to the solitude, to the analysis of the sides of nature (good and evil as counterposed strenghts). Nevertheless, and this is the mesagge, life is perfect as it is, as, consciously or not, each of us, no one is excluded, live in this way. As in *Among the flowers*, life should be lived simply and conscious of this mechanism, as simple persons that live their path made of life as well as of death. A work that won't change the genre's rules but that, anyway, is a more than good work.

Voto: 7, 5

Label: Space race records

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