

"ADJACENT CRUISE – WOOLVES: ARRESTIVE ACOUSTIC ALT ROCK"

“Woolves” is just one of the singles which you will find on the up and coming artist Adjacent Cruise’s debut album “Light as a Feather, Heavy like the Sun”.

The acoustic alt rock album which was released on September 8th unravels as a concordant aural smorgasbord of Folk, Indie, and unadulterated Americana.

If you can imagine a hybrid soundscape with elements of Bowie, the White Stripes, and Elliot Smith, you’d almost get an idea of the mesmerism which lies in tracks such as Woolves.

Thanks to the colourful lyrics which spill plenty of imagery and the authentic bluesy Rock n Roll rhythms, it’s fairly difficult not to fall into this melodious track and allow it to fade out without experiencing adoration for the nostalgically inclined single.

You can check out the standout single from Adjacent Cruise for yourselves by heading over to SoundCloud now.

Review by A&R Factory, Amelia Vandergast, 2019.

"ADJACENT CRUISE - LIGHT AS A FEATHER, HEAVY LIKE THE SUN"

Adjacent Cruise makes quietly empowering music, using soothing acoustic guitar and piano based songs to reaffirm their place in the world. “Keep on knocking, I’m not stopping if my hands bleed” sings Shannon Richardson on “The Doors Will Fly Open” summing up the essential theme of self-actualization found throughout Adjacent Cruise’s debut studio album Light As A Feather, Heavy Like The Sun.

A talented songwriter and instrumentalist from Chicago, Richardson brings a combination of emotionally charged late '90s alternative balladry and the pop sensibilities of folkies like Dave Matthews and Jack Johnson. Richardson is joined by multi-instrumentalist Yuen Yee Richardson, a classically trained artist who imbues these songs with ornate production elements and a cinematic flair.

A good example of the Richardsons’ harmony is “Wild Birds” a groovy folk ballad that tells the story of new love in the form of a metaphor. The song is mostly in its genre on the production side; however, a notable woodwind intro evokes an eastern flavor before continuing throughout the song, acting in effect as the titular wild bird. This use of theme and music as poetry speaks to a creative collaboration and a reverence for the classical masters.

I would describe Shannon Richardson’s vocal style as an intersection between the soft power and charged growl of Rob Thomas and the the groovy and rhythmic staccato of Jack Johnson. Richardson uses his ability to move between vocal registers as a storytelling tool, affecting a broken sob to really sell the narrative. A facet of his style is found on a majority of tracks here, but listen to the opening track “Woolves” for a prime example of his technique in action: the dark and sardonic verses entering a falsetto which emulates wolves howling, and then in the chorus,

Richardson fully projecting on the line “don’t pull the wool over my eyes.” These transitions keep the listener enthralled in Richardson’s story of liberation.

As a long-form debut clocking in at twenty tracks, *Light As A Feather, Heavy Like The Sun* serves as a great taster. Listeners are likely to find a song or two (or three, etc...) to gravitate towards, whether it be from the lyrical message or the strong melody. The play time of this album may prove to be its blessing and its curse, as the weighty drop may go undigested in its entirety by the public. However, I found it a rewarding listen at full length, although a predictable one in some areas. I would not say that the group sacrifices quality for quantity, as these tracks are all well written and performed; but in fact, *Adjacent Cruise* may have traded in innovation for a more packed set. In the future, a more condensed and progressive effort would be an exciting next step for a group that has clearly mastered the roots of their genre.

Review by Divide and Conquer, Ryan Kachikis, 2019.

"Adjacent Cruise Sets Sail With Debut Album, “Light as a Feather, Heavy like the Sun”

On September 13th, *Adjacent Cruise* will be debuting their album “*Light as a Feather, Heavy like the Sun*”, and will perform at a special album release at Martyrs’ Chicago on September 20th.

The band is made up of Illinois native Rock Singer-songwriter Shannon Richardson and Hong Kong born-and-raised Classically-trained musician Yuen Yee Richardson. Their different styles merge together perfectly to create a blend of easy-listening music with unique and powerful lyrics.

After three years of collaborating together, the duo is releasing their 20-track debut album, followed by a special one-night-only album release show featuring a rare full-band appearance in collaboration with local musicians including jazz bassist Gordon Walters, rock drummer Brett Grant and classical-jazz saxophonist Amos Gillespie. The full album recorded, mixed and mastered at Handwritten Recording in Chicago.

The performance at the album release show will also feature performances by alternative/indie band, Public Disco Porch, and touring folk band, Ezra Bell, from Portland. All three bands feature similar instrument usage: vocals, guitars, keys, bass, drums, horns.

Review by The Tidbit, Taylor Leddin, 2019.