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Made of Fiction / Fallout Renegade

Thu 31st August, 2006

Category: Single
Artist: Anemo
Record Label: City Canyons Records
Release Date: Mon 4th September, 2006



I have to admit that upon hearing the opening few seconds of Anemo's debut single 'Made of Fiction' with it's piano and synth treated vocals and it's sudden surge of upbeat electro drumbeats, I endured an inward groan and grew afraid that I was listening to another one of those electronic, techno, club-come-indie tunes that are inevitable rubbish. However, my fears were short lived because Anemo, a Brighton based three piece whose core is backed up by various session drummers and guitarists, were set to change my presumption of this genre forever.

The first song on this double A-side, the aforementioned 'Made of Fiction', is an example of pop rock that has been produced to perfection. The hint of electronic techno that had at first had my finger twitching, desperate to hit the skip forward button, swiftly develops and the tune quickly becomes an upbeat pop song, only with more depth than what we are usually use to. The heartfelt lyrics coupled with Hazel Wood's powerful voice allude to a strong female attitude, for which 'Made of Fiction' is all the better for.

Whilst still citing DJ Champion hacking away at the still twitching torso of Jean Paul-esque electro-dance as its source the second track, 'Fallout Renegade' has more rock undertones, or should that be Goth? Well I'm not sure because this tune processes the chameleon-like ability to switch between all three of these genres at will, with not even a hint of Nu-metal in sight. Quite uniquely this intricate blending of musical styles is a subtle piece of craftwork, a sign of real musical talent and one hopes this is a guarantee that Anemo will go onto produce even better things.

The third track, an acoustic version of 'Fallout Renegade', just re-iterates the power of Hazel Wood's voice as Anemo bring this song down to a much more personal level. The lyrics push their way even further to the front here and sustain the straight from the heart style that this version of the song attempts to pursue. If this sort of thing is your bag then that is fine, however, for this reviewer Anemo would probably do better sticking to what they do best and that's (uhh...) alternative dance/rock/pop (and exhale, uhh...).

If one thing is for certain it's that Anemo certainly live up to their name (Anemo meaning changes). Wood's fantastic vocal range manages to retain its own identity throughout whilst still managing to hint at numerous influences, adding to the layers of sound like the top slice of a sandwich in which all parts are of a different taste (well sound in this case) and purpose, each adding something completely different to the mix which, because it's a sandwich, tastes/sounds great when it is all brought together.

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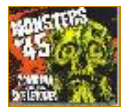
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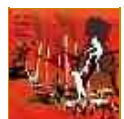
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