innerlife

By ESP Project

"Beautiful energy! ... has all the qualities of a great ESP album!"

(4.3 out of 5)/Self-production Categories

Progressive Rock

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Barely a few months after the release of " Anarchic Curves ", Tony Lowe 's ESP Project offers us a new album. Composed and performed by the duo Alison Fleming & Tony Lowe (*), "Innerlife" takes up an older project, in the form of a multi-sensory and multimedia show performed on stage in London in 2008. I leave it to you to discover more about the concept behind this album, either on the artist's website or on the album's Bandcamp page .

On the music side, connoisseurs of the **ESP Project discography are used to Tony Lowe** 's shimmering melodic twists, which hit the mark every time. This superior melodic quality is the one found in groups or musicians such as **Fish On Friday, Lifesigns, Tony Patterson, Barclay James Harvest**. **Innerlife**, although long before 2016's **Invisible Din**, has all the qualities of a great **ESP** album.

After a first track, "Fires Keep Burning", where the music and the voice are rather low and dark, "Spirit of the Physical" sung by Alison, takes a very Bee Gees turn. Beautiful energy! I'm not going to launch into an exhaustive exegesis of the 13 pieces – they each have their story to tell and their musical style -, but provide a brief overview. We will admire the power of "I See Light" which explodes after a long timeless intro, the soft bluesy poetry of "Gold, and the angelic bucolism of "Silver Thread".

More developed and very orchestral, "Green Fingers" plunges us into an infinite sweetness, at least until a more rhythmic coda. In the same orchestral tones, "Find The Cause" asks us to close our eyes and listen to Alison 's celestial voice.

Tony's whispered voice on **"Find The Cause"**, **Alison's** playful voice on **"Blue Like the Sky"**, the duo skillfully shares the different pieces, in a permanent dialogue populated by superb melodies. 13th and last piece, the very short **"I Believe in Everything"**, ends this catalog of musical impressions on a fast and joyful rhythm. Here is a brief overview of the album.

<u>The album's Bandcamp</u> page announces the release in 2023 of the accompanying videos for the songs. In the meantime, we can always close our eyes and enjoy the dreamy and luminous music of **Innerlife**!

Review by Pierre Prog in Prog Critique