

blackmail

“||”

(EU-Release April 5th 2013 – Unter Schafen / 45Recs / Allve)

blackmail are a true phenomena among the German rock-bands. A fresh and versatile mixture of timeless and open-minded Rock, marked by credibility and consistency gave them the title of a lifetime cult-act. Blackmail have been around for twenty years, though always been renowned by new audiences which made them maybe the most constant German rock-bands of all.

Finally the new album “II” (UnterSchafenRecs/45Recs/Allve) is available for the European fans and those yet to become. The sound cosmos of **blackmail** has never been more rambling, multifaceted and yes, even more progressive than on “II”. The meanwhile eighth studio album of this pillar of Teutonic Alternative-Rock, revealed **blackmail**'s love to Beatlesque melodies, how it's rooted to Psychedelic Rock and gurgling organs of the seventies, lift their hat to indie and grunge of the nineties and even takes the bread out of bands like Queens of the Stone Age according to brute directness.

blackmail went through a lot of different cycles. They have been a highly celebrated and greatly noted major band and played all the huge festivals, including German Rock am Ring and Summersonic Tokyo. They appeared within Visions' Magazine “150 records for eternity” and German Rolling Stone's “500 best Albums of all time”. And they still have their place in the canon of values by willed listeners of rock music.

After six highly acclaimed albums, on among others City Slang and Warner supported by intensive touring, in 2010 there was a caesura. Mathias Reetz came in, replacing Aydo Abay as the new singer and rhythm guitarist and revealed - without the slightest hesitation - a perfect match. In May 2011 the first album “Anima Now!” turned out as a pumping manifold piece with a novel cachet. If a change in the line-up wasn't ambitious enough: **blackmail** recorded, produced and released on the bands' own label “45 Records”, but they absolutely convinced fans and critics from the spot with an album in the spirit of top-notch DIY from first note to last promotion.

Mathias says “*we just kept going!*”, while Kurt Ebelhäuser, who is also one of Germany's busiest rock-producers as also behind most of the composition and production of almost every blackmail-album, adds: “*On “Anima Now!” we had loosely sniffed at each other. “II” stands for the final arriving. It's also the flourishing of blackmail with different methods and lots of fresh colours.*”

Yes, the colours: “Anima Now!” already charmed with new shades of sounds, different ideas and a new singer who internalized the melancholy that's typical for **blackmail**, but who added a completely unique tonality.

“*With “II”*”, Mathias says, “*we took our time and had the urge to have exciting song-writing and that every song works out in every detail. Every song has to be exciting in his whole and should be a little complicated as well.*”

Responsible for enormous density and especially the deepness of the album is another part that grew into the band: Swiss Simon Jäger had been Kurt's production assistant in the bands' own Studio 45 and was now in charge of the mix, as shooting star in the German mixing-scene. “*After lots of prosperous common productions, Simon became a specialist in mixing*”, Mathias says. And, Kurt adds: “*He just cuts right to the chase of the matter of mixing.*”

The guitars sound cleaner, but the pressure of the production is more edgy, rough and powerful. It's pumping and seething, jangling and blowing like a proper indie masterpiece, now back to be heard outside Germany.

With this multi-layered new album, **blackmail** prove that they're able to recreate themselves, even in their twentieth year, without neglecting any quality in maturity, experience and know-how. Newly invented is also their politics in releasing: Two indie labels, “45 Records” and “Unter Schafen”, take care for the release. “*I don't know if there ever was something like that in Germany before, that two indie labels care about a release at the same time and in the same range*”, Mathias says, “*The stream of ideas was so uncomplicated and inspiring that we approved straight and just try this model for “II”. We're really bent on doing this!*”

“II” feels like a debut of a just discovered favourite new band in his compulsion and cogency, but at the same time with the secure nonchalance and maturity of a rested late work. What a sublime balancing act. What an album. What a resurrection of a band – again.

Band:

Kurt Ebelhäuser (git.)
Carlos Ebelhäuser (bass) Mario
Matthias (dr.)
Mathias Reetz (voc./git.)

Discography:

2013 II (Unter Schafen Recs/ 45Recs / Alive)
2011 Anima! Now (45Recs/Soulfood)
2008 Tempo Tempo (CitySlang)
2006 Aerial View (CitySlang)
2005 Kammerflimmern Soundtrack (Colosseum)
2003 Friend or Foe? (Warner Music)
2001 Bliss, Please (Warner Music)
1999 Science Fiction (bluNoise Recs)
1997 blackmail (bluNoise Recs)

Management:

Striker Entertainment - Christoph Storbeck
info@striker-entertainment.com - www.striker-entertainment.com

Label / Distribution-Contact:

Unter Schafen Records - Timo Löwenstein
Timo.Loewenstein@alive-ag.de - www.unterschafen.de

Publishing:

Wintrup Musikverlage - Matthias Reimann
matthiasreimann@wintrup.de - www.wintrup.de

Booking:

Sparta Booking – Florian “Boede” Böhlendorf
boede@sparta-entertainment.com - www.sparta-entertainment.com

Blackmail

www.blackmail.de
www.facebook.com/thisisblackmail
www.youtube.com/blackmailofficialtv