



I CALL ĒLLY

WHERE DØ WE GØ NØW

JUST ABOUT EVERYONE HAS COME UP AGAINST LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS AT SOME TIME OF THEIR YOUTH: WHERE TO HEAD NEXT, WHAT IS THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP TO TAKE, THE DOS AND DON'TS, THE "NOW OR NEVER". EITHER THROUGH EXTERNAL IMPULSES OR A SELF- INFLICTED QUESTION-TIME ON THIS PROFOUND SUBJECT.

AND IT IS ON THIS QUESTION "WHERE DO WE GO?", THAT THE BAND I CALL ELLY HAS BASED ITS FIRST OEUVRE. AN EMOTIONAL, MULTIFACETED SOUNDTRACK IN BOTH TEXT AND SOUND, WHICH DOCUMENTS THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF LIFE. MANY AN EPISODE WAS ARCHIVED IN THE "FOLDER OF LIFE" ALONG THE WAY. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SCORN OF THE MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS. NO, ADOLESCENCE AND GROWING UP HAVE BEEN HAPPILY THERAPIED, CHILDREN AND RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN CREATED, FOUND OR SWAPPED FOR NEW. BUT NOW THAT STUBBORN QUESTION REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN AND AGAIN: WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THOSE EXPERIENCES WE HAVE COLLECTED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF THIS THING CALLED LIFE?

THE ORIGINS OF THIS TRIO BEGINS IN SUMMER 2013 AS JULIE ELIZABETH THOMPSON AND SEBASTIAN BÜTTNER DECIDE TO TURN THEIR BACKS TEMPORARILY ON AN ACOUSTIC PROJECT THEY HAD BEEN WORKING ON IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR OWN SONGS FOR A NEW PROJECT. "WE WANTED TO START SOMETHING CREATIVE AND DISTINCTIVE AND JUST REALLY GO FOR IT. WE KNEW THAT WE WORK WELL TOGETHER FROM PREVIOUS PROJECTS. BUT WE WERE INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW THIS HARMONY WOULD WORK WITH REGARDS TO OUR OWN SONGS." THE IDEA OF I CALL ELLY IS BORN. "WE STARTED BUILDING BEATS, WRITING LYRICS AND TESTING OUR CREATIVITY. THAT SOON STARTED WORKING SUCCESSFULLY AND WE QUICKLY HAD A FEW DEMOS READY TO GO OUT WITH AND TAKE TO FELLOW MUSICIANS AND PRODUCERS."

ALREADY IN LATE SUMMER, THE DECISION IS MADE TO PRODUCE AN EP, WHICH IS THEN PUT INTO ACTION BY PRODUCER, PASCAL REINHARDT. PAUL KRÖMMELBEIN (BASS/SYNTH) COMPLETES THE TRIO AND WITH HANNES GRYGAR, THE PERFECT DRUMMER FOR LIVE GIGS IS FOUND. FIVE SONGS ARE CREATED, INTO WHOSE SOULS THE GROUP, WITH ITS LOVE FOR SOUND AESTHETIC, SEWS ITS UNIQUE I CALL ELLY TONE, FAR FROM THAT OVERLY SMOOTH POP PRODUCTION, AND MORE IN THE DIRECTION OF HUGE ROLE MODELS LIKE MIIKE SNOW, PHEONIX OR FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE.

AND SO THE EP CIRCLES AROUND THE QUESTION "WHERE DO WE GO?", SELF-REFLECTIVE AND PRESENTED IN DIFFERENT LIGHTS. SOMETIMES OPTIMISTIC, POSITIVE AND LIFE-AFFIRMING, SOMETIMES AFRAID AND ANXIOUS – BUT ALWAYS DEEPLY THOUGHTFUL. FOR THE QUESTION POUNDS PERSISTENTLY ON: "WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT? AND WHAT SHOULD WE DO?"

THE SONGS "BORDERLINE" AND "BIG IDEAS" DEAL WITH DEPRESSING AND FRUSTRATING MOMENTS, DURING WHICH LIFE SEEMS EVERYTHING BUT PEACHY. AS ITS TITLE SUGGESTS, "BIG IDEAS" TALKS ABOUT THOSE HUGE IDEAS WHICH ARE ALWAYS BASED ON A CERTAIN UNCERTAINTY: MANY GOOD IDEAS EXIST, BUT DO WE HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY? WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, CAN WE SUMMON UP THAT POWER TO ACHIEVE OUR FUTURE ASPIRATIONS? "BORDERLINE" ALSO TELLS OF PERSONAL FEARS AND THE WORRY THAT SO DESPERATELY NEEDED ENERGY IS JUST NOT THERE, THOUGH WITH A POSITIVE MESSAGE: DREAMS, PERSPECTIVES, AMBITIONS – THEY DO

EXIST, AND WOULDN'T IT JUST BE GREAT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE OUR OWN FATE INTO OUR OWN HANDS?

LUCKILY, SUN USUALLY FOLLOWS THE RAIN. I CALL ELLY SPREADS HOPE FOR A POSITIVE TURNAROUND, OUR BELOVED HAPPY END, IN "FREE" AND "SILVERCLOUD". THE BIG AMBITION FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND BELIEF IN YOURSELF AND A HAPPY FUTURE, MUST NOT BE MISSING, NEITHER IN REAL LIFE NOR ON SUCH A SELF-REFLECTIVE ALBUM AS THIS ONE. BECAUSE THE RIDDLE

"WHERE DO WE GO – WHEN THE SUN HAS LOST ITS DAY?"

CAN BE SOLVED IN MORE THAN ONE WAY. LIFE IS NO HOLLYWOOD CLICHÉ, PRE-PROGRAMMED WITH A HAPPY END. BUT WITHOUT AT LEAST HOPE, BELIEF AND WILL, REALITY RARELY REACHES A POPULAR AND POSITIVE END.

THE BAND QUITE OBVIOUSLY ANSWERS THE QUESTION RELATING TO ITS OWN FUTURE. EACH OF THE I CALL ELLY PROTAGONISTS BRINGS HIS OR HER OWN EXPERIENCES INTO THIS STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG PROJECT, TO TAKE UP A DISTINCT POSITION. AND SO CREATIVITY IS BORN, WHICH PROGRESSES AND PICKS UP SPEED, WHICH IS WILLING TO PUT ITSELF UP AGAINST ITS CRITICS. DON'T WAIT: TIME IS FINITE. ELLY MUST GET OUT THERE!

THE EP WAS RELEASED IN APRIL 2014 – BOTH PHYSICALLY AS DIGIPAK AND DIGITALLY. THE SINGLE "WHERE DO WE GO NOW" IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE FEATURED AUDIO SURF SAMPLER OF THE MARCH EDITION OF VISIONS!

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