

Soaring with the Dreampilots

Norway is amazingly beautiful during the winter holidays. The sun sets at 3:00 p.m. this time of year, casting a dreamy glow across the Oslo skyline. Decorations adorn the charming streets and buildings of downtown Oslo creating an old world European ambiance one would expect here.

Located in the heart Oslo, Norway is the John Dee Live Club, a legendary music venue that is part of Rockefeller Music Hall. Like the classic American rock club, the John Dee is dressed in black from top to bottom, and pelted with the usual assortment of left-over promotional posters and band graffiti on the walls, but with hundreds of lit candles offering a hint of European class. Indifferent to the snow outside, hundreds of fans stand shoulder-to-shoulder, facing the stage, completely mesmerized as the Norwegian rockers, Dreampilots (*Red Hammer Records*), weave their musical tales to perfection, capturing the minds and hearts of their audience. The musicianship is absolutely impeccable, a stunning union of years of experience, combined with lyrical imagery that could be likened to Narnia. Dreampilots is a musical gem found deep in the snow, an interesting offering on today's world's music scene.

Getting to know Dreampilots in a real way without the aura of the stage, sound and lights, questions unfold in a very random, unpredictable way, with absolutely no method, or sense of direction, or agenda. Even so the answers are still brilliantly clear: Dreampilots is a smart band! They offer something very powerful that pulls back the veil of social and spiritual awareness that connects with their listeners in a very real and lasting way. Dreampilots is four separate souls who share a mutual awareness and compassion for the world we live in, recognizing their responsibility as a band to do what they can for humanity while upon a world stage. But, as Dreampilots front man Oddi Nessa says: "Of equal importance is connecting with the human being who is standing in front of our stage who is jaded and confused, and has lost his ability to trust. That person has lost their sense of moral and ethical boundaries. The most concerning part of that situation is that the 14-year-old kid in the audience is the person who will represent our future."

Back in the John Dee Club in Oslo, it is an amazing experience to listen to four of Norway's finest musicians put on a show that is perhaps, for this writer, as memorable as U2's Unforgettable Fire tour in 1984. Dreampilots is like a magician playing tricks on the eyes, enrapturing their audience in the mystery of sound, and it's undeniable when we are drawn into their enchanting, musical world. Their powerful stage presence and captivating lyrical imagery takes you on a introspective musical journey. One standout track "Invisible Things" paints a powerful picture with "kings and queens/The Lion is friendly/ruling the scene." Another mesmerizing message can be found in "Throw Myself" a captivating tune about a man who has wronged others, chosen the wrong path, then plays a fool when others tried to help him. With a final surrender to God towards the end of "Throw Myself" the truth resonates with the lines "Tonight I throw myself in your arms/like a little child just being born."

As music journalist Stein Ostby said when reviewing the album: "These are fellows who know how to create pop rock with rough edges, mixed with psychedelic elements, which places them on par with our former rock heroes Locomotives and Dandy Warhols."

Fast facts:

- *Look for Dreampilots first single "Comedown" at video and radio in June 2009.*
- *Dreampilots "Comedown" - in stores September 2009.*
- *Originally started in 2003 in the form of Salvation Street, the band morphed into Dreampilots in 2004 with the addition of Karl Oluf.*
- *Dreampilots released their first CD "If You Ever Come Down" on September 1, 2005 in Norway.*
- *Oddi Nessa (lead singer, guitars) was previously signed to Word UK and released the first Salvation Street CD in Norway in 2003.*
- *Karl Oluf (drums) plays drums for "a-ha", the Norwegian pop band that released the 1985 classic super-smash hit "Take on Me."*
- *Gulleiv Wee (bass) is a member of The September When, a tremendously successful pop band in Norway currently on a reunion tour.*
- *Inge Engelsvold (keyboards) is a music producer and runs Dreamlab Studio in Stavanger on the west coast of Norway. He produced the first Salvation Street record for Oddi Nessa.*