

Dante Fox

B R E A T H L E S S

The story of British band Dante Fox begins more than twenty years ago and now culminates with their fifth album called *Breathless*. Their first album called *Under Suspicion* was released twenty years ago in 1996 and since then Sue Willets and Tim Mansford have created some impressive melodic rock albums.

As our reviewer had to catch his breath after reviewing *Breathless* we wanted a chat with Mansford and Willets about Dante Fox and their new album.





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PHOTOS: DANTE FOX PROMO PHOTOS
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- I think this album is a bit more commercial, it is probably not as epic orientated as the last one that had a rather pompous seven-minute title track. This album is more oriented around single type tracks with hooks, lots of melodies that sort of thing.

Is how Tim Mansford explains when asked about "Breathless" the new album where they are looking for a more hit based album, which is something we touched on in our review as well. They want to break through commercially as much as possible and Mansford explains that they have been close to that before.

- We have always made commercial type songs with hooks;

back in 1996 we were a pop-rock type duo with a biting guitar sound and very melodic lead vocals. That is where we started, we moved away from that over the years as you follow your influences and what is true to you at the time. I think that with this album we have come back to our original influences with hook-ridden melodic rock expertly sung by Sue but we still got a little bit of hard rock in there too.

They think it is their best album so far as it has something for everyone with anthemic songs, more progressive ones and the for Dante Fox always important ballads.

- My favourite song would be *Breathless*, the title track; I think it has a great almost American hair metal guitar-riff, I think the verse is very moody and its got a great chorus and I really like playing

the solo on that one.

The band knows they have put together a strong album but no album does well without some interest from the fans and according to Mansford the fan interest has been excellent so far (the interview was done a few days before the album's release). Something that could be down to the band working with a record label again (AOR Heaven), the last album they produced themselves, they describe it as a breath of fresh air working with a label again.

- They have created quite a buzz around the album, especially in Europe. We knew we had a good following in the UK anyway and now Europe seems like it is going really well.

So the interest is good but what about the critics, have they gotten

any good reviews other than the one Hallowed wrote?

- Most of it has been really good like eight or nine out of ten, there was one from a power metal website that maybe wasn't so positive but I don't think we fit that genre very well, but apart from that everything has been great.

Rock 'n' Roll Lifestyle

Breathless means that they in twenty years they have come full circle and returned to their musical roots. Those roots were on the debut "Under Suspicion" saw the light of day in 1996 and since then that along with "Breathless" they have released five albums. Five albums in twenty years isn't a high release tempo so why haven't we heard more from Dante Fox over these years?

- First of all, I think music has

become a bit of a commodity if I am honest. Back in the day when you released an album it was a very special affair and you even toured with it for a good year to get the most of it - especially when putting a lot of work into writing and recording it.

Mansford seems to think that there is less care and love going into the albums these days and judging by the averages around the music business I wouldn't say that he is wrong in that assumption.

- I am not saying that we are better than everyone else but we like to put a lot of time and effort to record it correctly with expert production. None of the albums are made on PCs, with drum machines and samples; it is pretty much the band playing in a good recording studio.

But it is not the time and effort in the studio that accounts for the relatively few albums during the career, they toured a lot following the first albums and then had a break in the early 2000s, a five year break around that time and after the comeback album "Under the Seven Skies" they spent four years preparing the next album. Sue points out that their regular jobs takes quite a bit of time as well.

- Music is always the first love and the day-job pays for the albums and the rock 'n' roll kind of lifestyle.

And with a rock 'n' roll lifestyle comes touring and stage performances and the band has already played the new material at one small show on a smaller festival where they did a few new songs that all went down really well



with the audience.

- They sounded very fresh and powerful, and we really enjoyed playing them.

Apart from this show they will do Hardrock Hell AOR in march 2017 and they are looking for more dates and are planning to do some shows in the UK later this year.

- It would be great to get to Sweden, and Germany so if there are any promoters out there that are interested just get in contact

with us through our facebook or so.

Future

Besides touring the future seems to hold another album for Dante Fox as they have already been working on some new songs.

- Sue and myself has got a few good niche ideas that we're working on and we have like a song back with different ideas that we can tap into and as soon as we got an idea we put it in that bank so

that we can recall that whenever we want.

That means that we will not have to wait as long as usual for a new album by Dante Fox, and it will be an anthemic and pacey album that will be out about the same time next year.

- Yeah, in a about twelve months time we will probably have Dante Fox album number six out.

And until then you can always be entertained by the acclaimed "Breathless" album, and maybe

by the band on stage but you have to watch the band's channels to keep yourself up to date about that. And with that we thank Tim Mansford and Sue Willets for their time talking to us about their new album, they in turn thanks you who are reading for your support - so don't mess up when buying their album.

Dante Fox Discography:

Under Suspicion (1996)
The Fire Within (1999)
Under the Seven Skies (2007)
Lost Man's Ground (2012)
Breathless (2016)

Dante Fox are:

Tim Manford - Guitars
Sue Willets - Vocals
Andy Perfect - Drums
Alan Mills - Bass

Links

Our review of Breathless
<http://www.dantefox.com>