

INTERVIEW TO PARADE GROUND

Today we would like to talk with **Jean-Marc** and **Pierre Pauly** alias **Parade Ground**, an '80s cult early EBM / synth pop belgian act who, in the following days, will play some gigs in Italy. Some time ago, a compilation has been published by **Infacted recordings** and now, after some years, a new interest in this band is growing more and more. Let's talk with them.

- 1) Hi guys! Talk to our readers about who Parade ground are. Recently, after the release of your compilation by Infacted recordings, your music has become more known even by new EBM listeners, and now you're going to play live in our country.

P/JM: Hi, everyone! We're really touched by the reactions we get recently. It's really moving for us to meet people who like our music so much. Grazie mille. But does one ask a corpse what it is doing in its coffin?

- 2) Your music is a particular mix of synth pop and early EBM mixed in a really original way. In my opinion, your major trademarks are the versatility of the vocals and the entangled rhythms that make the music pretty engaging. How could you describe your music in relation to what happened in the early 80's?

JM: There was something of a duality in the music we made. We loved guitar songs but played mostly on synthesizers because analog sounds and synth had just been discovered. We were entering a new world . Everything was open and free.

- 3) How have you survived during the EBM crisis of the early 90's? How your sound has changed during the years, replying to this crisis?

P: We simply weren't there because we got involved in novel-writing, plastic art and other forms of expression, willingly. We made an exception to this, doing the **Front 242** album for which we wrote and composed.

- 4) Now there's a new growing interest in early EBM and, in general, in experimental sounds. Do you feel that, as many have already done, it's a good time to release a new album? What's your opinion about this phenomenon?

P: Everything that is experiment seems interesting to us. A few years ago, we made a record colled 'Rosary' without concession , fully experimental. The vocals of Jean-Marc are 70 per cent of the band. Our creation has always been a transposition of modern art in music. We built castles of sound.

- 5) After having seen some gig videos, i've come to the conclusion that you like a lot the live dimension, you release good vibes and you make powerful shows. What italian fans need to expect from the gigs you've prepared for the short italian tour?

P/JM: Being eaten up! On stage we always give more than ourselves. It's full of rage and positive aggression. It's on stage that everything happens. With all the tension, the rage, the aestheticism of nausea. Each of our concerts has always been lived out as if it was the last one. One must put one's skin on the table. One's got to pay. We will play all of our eighties hits, plus some new tracks we've just finished: purely Parade Ground and EBM style.

- 6) You're often considered one of the most important bands of the EBM first waves, often mixed with synth pop. What's the difference between this new interest in EBM and what was the interest in EBM at the beginning of the 80's?

P/JM: I think the new EBM is in fact, techno with all the concessions, with all that implies. In the eighties, every band would bring a stone, a movement to the building. The sequencers were discovered (for the bass sequences) with a lot of varieties and creations but the main difference are the lyrics.

- 7) As you are a sort of "crossover" music project, how do you think that genre definitions are important in music?

P: We never liked genre definition. (Except that): Jean-Marc is the last crooner in music. Definition doesn't matter. What really matters is sincerity. I think the melodies and emotions are the true crossover for us. You don't put a label on the eyes. Only emotion and rage matter. Putting oneself in danger...

- 8) What your music can tell to the new millennium industrial music fans? What message could it send them? I think, for example, at the Italian fans who will see you live in Naples and in Bologna.

P/JM: We still feel new and the next band to come. The difference between us and the bands from the eighties is that we have just finished composing a new album, 15 totally new tracks whereas the other bands from the eighties live on the past and are inspirationless. We're an alive band.

- 9) As forerunners of what would have become a new sound, what's more important in Electronic Body Music? The beats, the lyrics, a sum of the parts? For example, what's your lyrics about?

JM: I write my lyrics like a camera, as a movie-director. It's a succession of striking onirical images. Something that makes you dream. I am a great fan of the visual work of the dadaists and French movies from the thirties, also the German expressionism and Italian neo-realism.

- 10) Thanks a lot for your time! Greet our readers and invite them to buy your compilation!

P/JM: Hello there. We're so pleased to meet you in Italy. Trust us, it will be something you'll remember for a life-time. You have to achieve, as Marinetti's futurists, to drive fast and try to catch the moon! Stick to the siren.