

## 'Settle Up or Settle Down' - JEBO

There are several sides to the old prog rock coin. There's the traditional stuff, 30 minute guitar solos, key changes every five bars and lyrics of the Jon Anderson school that go on about lord knows what in words of never less than six syllables. Then there's the other side of the coin, the type of prog pioneered by the likes of Asia and It Bites. Good strong songs with the art rock excesses kept under control and a strong commercial edge. This is the stand point Bristol band JEBO come from, and on this their second full length release they show that they are rapidly developing into one of that type of progs finest exponents.

There have been a few changes since their debut long player, 2006's 'Sinking Without You'. We have new faces in the shape of bassist Gianfredo Konig and vocalist Kevin J Messenger, but those of you who loved the old JEBO line up have nothing to fear as the transition has been a smooth one with the new boys blending in seamlessly with the more established members of guitarist Rob Allen, Keys-man Nick O'Neill and drummer Jeff France. Also there is the same steady and experienced hand on the production helm in the shape of John Burns (Blind Faith, Genesis, Humble Pie, Jethro Tull, Spooky Tooth, Blodwyn Pig, Ten Years After, Quintessence, David Bowie, King Crimson, Donovan etc etc etc). All this means that anyone already familiar with this bands slick and intelligent brand of rock will have no nasty surprises. Indeed 'Settle Up...' seems to take over exactly where 'Sinking...' left off. We have a dozen songs, all intelligently penned, expertly performed, perfectly produced and wrapped up in a genuine 100% feel good vibe that stands up to repeated listening.

There are no unnecessary show off passages, and whilst there are some very nice little proggy moments on offer at no point do get the feeling the band are attempting being flash for the sake of it.

Instead they just sit back and let the music do the talking. We have tracks like the whimsical introspection of 'The Greatest Day', the spaced out driftiness of '40 Miles' with its superb riff driven backing, the catchy little 'Fortune Teller' with its sly nods to pop psychedelia, the anthemic 'No Angels' and of course the epic closer 'Something's Gotta give' with it's horn lines and great danceable beat.

While this album isn't exactly one that jumps out to bite yer bum, it flows along very nicely indeed and it's become one that I turn to to chill out at the end of the day with a glass of my favourite indulgence, and I'm sure if you gave it a listen you would find the same.

Over the past five years or so, JEBO have already made a lot of friends around the world and I can see this album going a long way to winning them a lot more. Highly recommended.

Jon Wisbey - The Sunday Rock Show - BCFM