

Yes – Fly From Here (2011)

Written by bluesever

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01 – Fly From Here – Overture [play](#) 02 – Fly From Here Part I – We Can Fly 03 – Fly From Here Part II – Sad Night At The Airfield 04 – Fly From Here Part III – Madman At The Screens 05 – Fly From Here Part IV – Bumpy Ride 06 – Fly From Here Part V – We Can Fly Reprise 07 – The Man You Always Wanted Me To Be 08 – Life On A Film Set 09 – Hour Of Need [play](#) 10 – Solitaire 11 – Into The Storm

Personnel: Benoît David – lead vocals Chris Squire – bass guitar, backup vocals, lead vocals on "The Man You Always Wanted Me to Be" Steve Howe – guitars, backup vocals Alan White – drums Geoff Downes – keyboards + Oliver Wakeman – additional keyboards on "We Can Fly", "We Can Fly (reprise)" and "Hour of Need" Trevor Horn – backup vocals, additional keyboards Luís Jardim – percussion Gerard Johnson – piano on "The Man You Always Wanted Me to Be"

A decade after their last studio release, Yes has issued Fly from Here, and it's not only a keeper, but as good as any record to come from the group since 1974. Consisting here of Chris Squire (bass, vocals), Steve Howe (guitars, vocals), Alan White (drums), Geoff Downes (keyboards), and Benoit David (lead vocals), and with Trevor Horn producing, an obvious connection can be made between this album and 1980's Drama. But Fly from Here is a long way from that earlier album, even if the songs do possess a good deal of drama. Downright urgency is closer to it. Benoit David may not have Jon Anderson's range, but he makes up for it with deep expressiveness; and that, coupled with virtuoso-level playing and wonderfully elegant mixing of the vocals, allows this album to stand alongside the group's best work of the last 35 years.

Some of what's here will invite comparisons with their early years: the first six tracks are a

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six-part suite ("Fly from Here"), but it's not essential to hear them linked. Astonishingly for a 2011 release, the group sounds as though they're a bunch of kids again, inventing progressive rock for the first time, or perhaps perfecting it, complete with romantic ballads and folk-like pieces that stand in sharp contrast to the grander productions on which the album rests. Though nothing is overlong or complex, the songs are all presented with a depth and lushness that makes one think, at first, of a soundtrack to a movie, and then of the movie itself, as though Horn, Downes, and Squire (who, with Howe, dominate the composers' credits) had a long-form, multi-media piece in mind rather than just an album. And they execute it all with a fullness of sound and compelling melodic content that pulls the listener in, almost as surely as any first-rate opera; and with Howe's mostly instrumental contributions to break up the majestic production of Horn's songs, this album does, at times, remind one of the best moments of Tales from Topographic Oceans. Lyrics like "Dreaming, seeing you there" lofting gently over thin, silky sheets of sound, can sweep the listener away, and that's only one of the moments where the group's unique elements take hold. Fans of Howe's playing will also not be disappointed: his electric guitars are represented in complex, intense layers, but his acoustic work isn't shorted, providing quietly gorgeous openings to about a third of the material here. His "Hour of Need" is the most genial acoustic ballad that this group has delivered since "Your Move" on The Yes Album, 40 years ago. It's followed by "Solitaire," possibly the finest solo guitar piece we may ever hear from Howe on a Yes album. And it all closes with the rollicking "Into the Storm," all electric and all cylinders pumping, and, ironically, the least interesting track on the album.

---Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

I tak już nadwreżonej reputacji jednej z najżywotniejszych kapel rockowych świata (rocznik 1968) „Fly from Here” nie zdruzgocze z tego prostego powodu, że mimo wiernej tradycji okładki nie sposób uznać tę płytę za wydawnictwo Yes.

Schorowanego Jona Andersona koledzy bezceremonialnie zastąpili wokalistą kanadyjskiego cover-bandu własnej kapeli. Po odejściu klawiszowca Ricka Wakemana grupę opuścił również jego syn Olivier. A ledwo zatrudniony na ich miejsce Geoff Downes – i to jest kuriozum największe – wspólnie z producentem płyty Trevorem Hornem odpowiada za większość niniejszego materiału z tytułową suitą na czele.

Panowie sklecieli wprawdzie kilka ładnych tematów, tyle że potem rozciągnęli je na trzy kwadranse. Styl skopiowali zaś pieczołowicie z klasycznego okresu zespołu z lat 70. Uznajmy, że wydanym dziesięć lat temu „Magnification” Yes bardzo godnie zamknęło swoją studyjną karierę. ---ziemianiczyja.pl

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