

The Je Ne Sais Quoi
Rhythm
(The Je Ne Sais Quoi / Nons License)

The Je Ne Sais Quoi is a typical Stockholm band in regards to the fact that none of the members are originally from Stockholm. Everyone moved there as soon as their parents let them, to find jobs that were more fun, to meet people that were more fun, and to have a bit more fun themselves. The bulk of the members grew up in small hick towns and have in common that they all in their respective locations sought refuge in music. Music was the only meaningful thing one could imagine doing, unless the idea of renting action movies or getting pregnant way too early felt really appealing.

When the band first made a sound, on a 7-inch released in 2003, the music was described as part garage rock and part post-punk. From there The Je Ne Sais Quoi has transformed into a half-electronic machine, on a mission to initiate the "**desperate celebration**"; a kind of excited anger, a loving climax of frustration.

On the new album "**Rhythm**" the portions of funk and artificial sounds have been further enlarged. There is less cowbell and more vocoder. FAG, the band's live reinforcement, has taken a steady seat as a member of the band, adding loads of excitement; imagine **Brian Eno** equipped with percussion, playing covers of Herbie Hancock at an indie rave party! Three out of the five members sing on the album, preferably in two, three, four or more harmonies. They play un-tenderly on nice old guitars, on the grand pianos of the Royal Music Academy, and on semi-broken electric organs. **Joachim Ekermann**, who has produced among others **Jenny Wilson**, became the perfect production partner. He has, like the members of The Je Ne Sais Quoi, played in punk bands until his fingers bled, but also knows what makes an Oberheim Matrix 1000 synthesizer really exhilarating.

The Je Ne Sais Quoi has managed to satisfy crowds as far apart as VICE kids at free parties to harsh manual laborers at Belgian pubs. The bond between these disparate types of people might be The Je Ne Sais Quoi's ability to instigate the "desperate celebration". Maybe that is why the band was nominated in the Best Live Act category at the Swedish Indie Awards **Manifest** in 2007.

Despite the mix of influences and sounds there is a thread - or rather two parallel threads - that run through the entire "**Rhythm**" album. One is the music, which is uplifting, energetic, and sometimes just beautiful. The other is the lyrical content, that expresses longing, melancholy and desperation. And there it is again, the "desperate celebration", something which at a glance is incompatible, but has been brought together by force of music. Maybe that is why one feels that The Je Ne Sais Quoi is something you need a whole new vocabulary to describe.

RHYTHM is out September 19 in Scandinavia.

*Management: LA FIRME, Elin Trogen, Katarina Bangata 48, 11639 Stockholm, Sweden,
www.lafirme.se , elin@lafirme.se*