



THERAPY?

A Brief Crack Of Light

(Written By: Jeffrey Kurtis)

When you search outside of the borders of the US for new music what you will most often find is that elsewhere bands have a staying power for more than just a few years. Such is the case with Northern-Ireland based Therapy? who is celebrating the release of their 13th album *A Brief Crack Of Light*. With this album, just as they have always done, the group is not afraid to take their post-modern rock rooted sound and experiment on it in clear efforts to expand genre borders and blur them. Prime examples of the experimentation going on throughout *A Brief Crack Of Light* come with weird jazz incisions into otherwise hectic guitars on “Plague Bell,” on darker songs like “Ghost Trio” where they turn the melodramatic up a notch and bring more of a monotone feel to the album, and on the instrumental “Marlow.” They do also satisfy longtime fans by staying true to their signature hard rock sound at times as well with songs like “Living In The Shadow of the Terrible Thing” and “Why Turbulence?” where they pull together get stuck in your head melodies with big guitar riffs and rhythms. The overall feel of the album is that while Therapy? does their part to maintain their sound that fans have grown accustomed to, they also consciously take listeners on a journey into some new territory as well perhaps signaling those things to come in the near future. Upon first listen, this just didn’t catch my ears as it seemed a bit all over the place and not a cohesive album from top to bottom, however that just may be what makes this album enjoyable as well. There is just something to the feel of this album that tells me with a few more spins this one could really grow on me.