

Concert Reviews

all reviews and photos by John A. Wilcox

Oblivion Sun – The Knitting Factory, NY, NY 11/07/0

There are days when you feel utterly drained. Life has kicked your ass & the glass is four fifths empty. This was one of those days. Oblivion Sun cured all that with a blazing, remarkable performance in support of their self titled debut disc at the Knitting Factory on sucky old Leonard Street in NYC. The quintet took the stage a bit after 7:30 and opened with the appropriately titled **Fanfare**. Frank Wyatt sat behind his Kurzweil, his fingers triggering beauty and majesty as always. **Chapter 7.1** was introduced by guitarist / vocalist Stanley Whitaker as an Oblivion Sun refit of **Chapter 7** from the *Pedal Giant Animals* album he and Frank Wyatt released prior to this project. Next was a gem by keyboardist Bill Plummer - **Noodlepoint** - a very Happy The Man - esque number and great showcasing of the rhythm section of bassist Dave DeMarco and Iluvatar drummer Chris Mack. Speaking of Wyatt & Whitaker's former band, Happy The Man, a track from *The Muse Awakens* - **Shadowlites** was given the Oblivion Sun treatment. It may just be my perception, but Oblivion Sun seems to have an even more positive vibe than Happy The Man did. Great interaction and nothing but smiles all night.

A very Crimsony guitar line by Whitaker drove **No Surprises** with pulsing bass by DeMarco. Wyatt's playful **Catwalk** had a swell vocal by Whitaker and fabulous, expansive chords. It's one of those songs you just don't want to end. Things took a turn for the funkier with **Re: Bootsy** with Wyatt adding tasty sax to the mix and Plummer using vintage sounds to bring the ear candy up a notch. Nice Whitaker vocals on another *Pedal Giant Animals* tune: **Everything**. A dog is admonished to **Leave That Kitten Alone, Armone** - a compelling reading of the old Happy The Man number heavily featuring Mack's percussive talents. Plummer introduced the final *Pedal Giant Animals* song to be covered - **Mists Of Babylon**. **The Ride** had some great Hendrix-y guitar from Whitaker and a bluesy vocal. Underwater we went with the moody **Tales Of Young Whales**, one of the strongest numbers in a very strong set. The Happy The Man-ish **Golden Feast**, another Wyatt composition, closed the set.

<http://progsheet1.hypermart.net/concertreviews2.html>