

The Impaler Speaks

Empress Hotel - Heavy Halo



Empress Hotel – Heavy Halo (Park The Van/MVD Audio)

Time for some NOLA love! It's easy to love Empress Hotel, too, for people – like me! – who are full-on suckers for that classic pop sensibility epitomized by oh-so-essential acts like Big Star and Roxy Music. If you are completely unfamiliar with Empress Hotel, here's a reference that should make you sit up and take notice: The New Pornographers. Seriously, I have all my new 'to be reviewed' releases in my iTunes and hit the 'shuffle' button the other day while I was working on other things (read: while I was procrastinating on getting my reviews done) and the Empress Hotel track 'Mach Bach' came on. I sang along a bit. I danced a bit (such as it is, when it comes to me 'dancing' – unless the reference in question can be found in the classic Sick Of It All video for 'Step Down'). I laughed. I cried. (Well, I didn't cry.) Then I thought, 'Wait, how did The New Pornographers sneak into my 'to be reviewed' playlist – will those wacky Canadians stop at nothing to achieve the worldwide pop domination that they do, in fact, richly deserve?' So I checked things out and realized that it was a song by New Orleans all-star ensemble Empress Hotel. Now I can't stop listening to this album. Like their Canadian counterparts, Empress Hotel is a sizable outfit, comprised of Ryan Curtis Rogers, Eric Rogers, Micah McKee, Julie Odell, Patrick Hodgkins, Julie Williams, Meg Roussel, Michael Giradot, Anthony J. Cuccia, Amanda Wuerstlin, and Rebecca Crenshaw. Honestly, I'm not sure who does what at any given time but from the sound of things all of them sing – beautifully – and regardless of which member is playing which instrument at any given time, he or she is doing a damn fine job of it because every song on 'Heavy Halo' is tight, groove-tastic, and shimmering with glorious pop goodness. The Impaler's verdict: If you want to experience that unbeatable dopamine rush that comes from falling in love, make a date with 'Heavy Halo' and don't forget to thank me later. **The Impaler** [@impalerspeaks](#)

Links!

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The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

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2 DAYS LEFT to support Flowsee Magazine by @FlowseeBeta at [@kickstarter http://t.co/E2Ma0cgr](http://t.co/E2Ma0cgr) Keep it #indie in 2013!

@StoryAddict69 I checked out the launch page briefly. I'll try looking it at in more detail this weekend, if time allows. Thanks!

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