



NILS LOFGREN - Old School

Wienerworld - Out now

by Denise Britt

From the opening line of the first song on this album (*teens are hooked on drugs*) I am reeled in.

The upbeat 'Old School' tells it like it needs to be told; had me doing the ole, "hell yeah" out loud to myself. Well and to be fair, Foreigner ex front man Lou Gramm joined in so it was hard for me not to love it. '60 Is The New 18' is disturbingly true: picture your favorite rock star over 50 years old (yes I know the title is 60 but...) and go from there. There is a sweet song dedicated to Ray Charles, 'Miss You Ray' which gives tribute to a few others as well. 'Love Stumbles On' is an age old story of love conquering all - with a nice reference at the end to the poem 'Footprints In The Sand' - while the next two tracks, 'Amy Joan Blues' (sang with the legendary Paul Rodgers) and 'Irish Angel' are about lost loves and all that entails (although I do think that Amy Joan is Nils's lovely wife so not all is lost). More love songs to follow with 'When You Were Mine', 'Just Because You Love Me' and 'Let Her Get Away', then it ends with a track titled 'Why Me'. Well Nils, why not?

The guitar work on the entire album is phenomenal; the lyrical content is deep and thought provoking. Old School is a great collection of songs very reminiscent of Springsteen but with enough of himself to be all Nils. If you dig Springsteen, old Neil Young and even Bob Dylan you will love this album. And if you are a man over a certain age, you might just be shaking your head in agreement with a lot of these songs as well.

<http://reviews.sonicshocks.com/NILS-LOFGREN-Old-School.php>