Talking Heads Remain in Light on New Album

Heidwe Festival: Toronto Talking Heads with guest star—PARLIAMENT—AT Rocker: October 1980 article entitled "Talking Heads Face the Funk"? Hmm.

I've been looking forward to this album for a while. I was really curious to hear the direction Talking Heads would take. Besides, my friend, Joe Kesselman, informed me the cover art was generated at ARCHMAIC. In fact, they used one of his graphics on the cover.

He didn't get credit for his work. Grrrr. This is a mediocre album. Grrrr.

Side one is disco, in fact it's unlistenable disco. The former I don't hold against them, the latter I do. "Born Under Punches" and "The Great Curve" could have been lifted from any disco album in the muck (are lyrics, of course) "Crowed and Paralyzed" is "Life During Wartime" revised. That's impressive.

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On The flip, two of five cuts just don't make it. "Some and Not Seen," is the only cut with unfolding monotone spoken lyrics barely distinguishable from the background. "Some and Not Seen" is a ditty that weaves an emotion and grants the gap play... perhaps. It is now time to praise the virtues of the album. The lyrics never fail. They range from government oppression to a life without direction, a comment or purpose. Even "Some and Not Seen" is a curious look at facial features and their relation to personality. Thankfully, the group has departed from this direction not if David Byrne's desperate growl.

However, there are two cuts. One, their stylistic change is uniform and not the entire album; interfering feautures sung by Brian, Eno and Neila: I blame you and Byrne's awful. Two, they didn't know how to wrap the contrasting passages; the cooking motions in front of three songs (notably "Born Under Punches") and "Crossed" and "Paralyzed" are amazingly similar. The mood, refreshing depth, as if from this cut is in "Once in a Lifetime." Another interesting, change, I think it follows "Houses of Motion." Here particular are, alternately mentioned. A little "Screem Bites," sound of euphemistic effets.

But, in the end, the best song is "Listening Wind." It's got a very North African feel, it's got all the life of a souk with a belly dancer.

Amen, it's a view from the other side of civilization. It's bringing democracy to the world. It gives us an introspective look at human nature. And it's a song that makes a serious, or "broadside" fringe the world, perhaps. Let's read the Round. Two of Talking Heads four to make it that popular.

To complete the whole package, you will take that to the sky, an entertaining album that's quite a bit above the general level. Yes, it's solid.

French cooking, American style.