

Review

ELVIS DEPRESSEDLY KEEPS TRUE TO THEIR SOUND WHILE ABANDONING THEMES OF DEPRESSION



by
junior reporter
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★★★★★

Mathew Lee Cothran and Delaney Mills, also known as Elvis Depressedly, are a dreampop duo from Columbia, South Carolina who have gained quite the following over the past few years through their distinctive lo-fi and home-recorded sound. Though their previous albums have been known to explore loneliness and death, they’ve made it clear with “New Alhambra” that they’ve abandoned the underlying themes of depression in their music that they’ve almost inevitably become associated with.

The second track, “N.M.S.S.,” is the first hint at the change of tone on the album. The lyrics “No more sad songs, I will serve no purpose / I love everyone that I have ever known” are an obvious change from songs on previous albums, such as

the 2012 release “Mickey’s Dead,” which is filled with lyrics like “I ain’t ever gonna learn to swim / So when the water rises to my mouth / I’m just gonna breathe right through my smile and be happy to drown.”

Though the subject matter on “New Alhambra” is a contrast from that on previous Elvis Depressedly releases, Cothran and Mills have stayed true to their sound; Mathew’s traditional shaky, distorted vocals and the textural depth that the band is most known for are both present throughout the album. “New Alhambra” is generally the clearest and most well-produced album in the Depressedly discography, but it still leaves room for the brittle sound that makes the band unique.

Every track on the album is extremely well-put together and they all serve a purpose, rather than just seeming like filler. Highlights on the album include “Bruises (Amethyst),” “Big Break” and “Ease” which are

all all traditionally lo-fi tracks that still manage to stand out from the rest of the album. Cothran’s voice is the most memorable part of songs like “New Heaven, New Earth” and the opening track “Thou Shall Not Murder,” providing warmth and proving that they wouldn’t be the

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same if sung by anyone else. The album finishes off with “Wastes of Time,” a dreamy acoustic track delivered almost like a promise.

“New Alhambra” is a significant representation of the maturity that Elvis Depressedly has reached over the years. It’s filled with a variety of different emotions and still manages to keep elements of the material that initially attracted the band’s audience. The album is a significant turning point for the band in terms of content, and the conclusive theme that shines throughout the entire album is a change that is good.