

PRESS RELEASE

MONOCHROME UNITÀ

NEW ALBUM LP/CD
Release Date: March 21st, 2014
Unter Schafen Records

**UNTER*SCHAFEN
RECORDS**

Unter Schafen Records, 2014
Distributed by ALIVE — www.unterschafen.de

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Berlin, Stuttgart, Zurich, Basel – a line of cities where the members of MONOCHROME are scattered, perhaps it is the reason why we haven't heard anything from them for about five years. Maybe it's also why it is so challenging to find a way to evaluate what «The Monochrome Popgroup» does. Everything so far apart, and yet so close together.

Five years is almost an eternity in the pop business. But then again MONOCHROME has never been about «The Bizz». In 1996 the band emerged from their legendary hardcore roots – known as Dawnbreed – blazed their own new trail under their new badge... and never looked back.

After two US tours and several hundred European concerts in clubs, discos, galleries and stables; countless singles and EPs; the albums LASER (Trans Solar Records, 1999), FERRO (Trans Solar Records, 2003), ÉCLAT (Sticksister Records, 2006), and CACHÉ (Stickman Records, 2008), MONOCHROME have established themselves across all geographical and musical boundaries. It's no surprise that after five years of stillness, UNITÀ (Unter Schafen, Cologne based label) picks up where they left off. Chalk it up to talent, dedication and just plain bustin' your ass for music.

UNITÀ goes all the way. It is post-punk, uninhibited pop, the genuine independent spirit, sometimes dreamy, post-rock and hardcore to its hardest core. UNITÀ is all of this, much more, and doesn't leave anything to chance. And exactly that is the damn beauty of it all. What the «funny bone» is to a comedian, «attitude» is what differentiates good rock musicians.

You can't just buy attitude, not on Amazon, not on eBay. Don't even try. You either have it for real, or you don't at all. Just how much attitude MONOCHROME has is obvious from the fact that they DON'T rub your nose in it. Even in their most delicate and poppy moments, the MONOCHROME attitude can still hit you like a bare-knuckled fist in the gut. They definitely take what they do seriously. Instrumental songs like, «Sondergleich» or «Canzone di un'altra estate» speak volumes for themselves.

«Of Constant Companions», «Miami», «Velvet Ropes» – these days, you won't find anything that sounds better than UNITÀ. These songs possess such a threatening beauty, calm finesse and precious warmth and are so stylish; it would be a true shame to only speak about style. An equal disservice would be to simply brand MONOCHROME

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as mature or grown up, because UNITÀ at its best is also genuinely childlike – playful, light on its feet and full of love for music.

No time to run a lifestyle ad. No time for lofty theories. No time for any crap whatsoever. Just time for the music. Some may hear «Minutes and Action» and smirk in disdain, «Ewww, indie disco!» But every idiot knows that any dance club is only as good as the songs they play. Then please let it be this snappy pop number that'll move your feet and swing those hips.

Moreover, UNITÀ is a snapshot worth framing. Ten years after leaving the band, singer Ahlie Schaubel appears on two songs and will be back on stage with MONOCHROME at concerts and festivals. Singer/songwriter, Miss Kenichi is also in on the gig. And if that wasn't enough, singer Marc Calmbach is supported by Laura Lopez Castro (who has worked with Don Phillippe, Max Herre, Joy Denalane) and Katharina Puscher (Melody La La). You can't get any more UNITÀ than that.

The fact that UNITÀ was recorded at the band's own PROXY STUDIO in Stuttgart is a clear statement: no excuses, no distractions, nothing that takes away from the most im-

portant thing – the songs. Never before have depth and lightheartedness been so close as on UNITÀ. And that's exactly where you find the greatness of MONOCHROME staying true to itself: Hardcore at heart, punk in the legs and pop on the lips.

– Michael Setzer/Christian Hänggi/Randy J. David

MONOCHROME are: Marc Calmbach, Helm Pfohl, Christian Specker, Marten Thielges, and Dominik Thomann. When Marc Calmbach isn't singing, it's most likely Ahlie Schaubel, Miss Kenichi, Katharina Puscher (Melody La La), or Laura Lopez Castro. When no one is singing, chances are it's an instrumental tune or someone should turn over the record. The mastering was done by Greg Calbi (The National, MGMT, Nada Surf), Sterling Sound New York City. Christian Specker also drums for the Swiss pop band BLIGG. Many people outside of Switzerland don't understand a word of it but still dance.

The visual design was done by Helm Pfohl and Tobias Rechsteiner (Zurich/Berne).

The video of «Minutes and Actions» was filmed and realized by Stephane Leonard (Bodi Bill, Me and My Drummer, Seidenmatt, Delbo).

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FACTS & FIGURES

Tracklist:

- ⁰¹ **Clarification**
- ⁰² **Of Constant Companions**
- ⁰³ **Brun**
- ⁰⁴ **The Weekender**
- ⁰⁵ **Leerschlag**
- ⁰⁶ **Minutes and Actions**
- ⁰⁷ **Wechselstrom**
- ⁰⁸ (It is not meant to be) **Our Last Campaign**
- ⁰⁹ **Sondergleich**
- ¹⁰ **The Sense of a Sentiment**
- ¹¹ **Recours**
- ¹² **Miami**
- ¹³ **Velvet Ropes**
- ¹⁴ **Closure**
- ¹⁵ **Canzone di un'altra estate**

Total: 15 tracks, 46 minutes

Recorded and mixed by Marten Thielges, Proxy Studio. Mastered by Greg Calbi, Sterling Sound, New York City. All songs written and played by Monochrome.

Monochrome is:

Marc Calmbach (Vocals), Helm Pfohl (Guitars), Christian Specker (Drums), Marten Thielges (Guitars), Dominik Thomann (Bass).

Vocals on «Of Constant Companions» and «The Sense of a Sentiment» by Laura Lopez Castro. Vocals on «Clarification» and «Closure» by Ahlie Schaubel. Vocals on «Wechselstrom» and «Recours» by Miss Kenichi. Backing vocals on «Minutes and Actions» by Katharina Puscher.

Additional musicians:

- Ekkehard Rössle, horns
- Bernhard Hahn, extra-drums
- Tobi Gfesser, piano/organ/synths
- Thomas Hahn, bass
- Teresa Lopez-Diaz, violin
- Moritz Papp, viola
- Carmen Amrein, hammered dulcimer
- Kai Hafner/Thomas Sattig, backing vocals

Design concept and realisation by Helm Pfohl and Tobias Rechsteiner, Zurich/Bern.

«Minutes and Actions» (www.youtube.com/watch?v=RphV0FKnkOA) was filmed and realized by Stephane Leonard (works für Bodi Bill, Me and my drummer, Seidenmatt, Delbo).

The band will play live on tour from April 11th to April 22nd. The tour will be presented by Selma Booking and Flux FM.

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Available as vinyl LP and Digipak CD

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DISCOGRAPHY

UNITÀ
ALBUM LP/CD
Unter Schafen Records, 2014

PLANA
7INCH
Arindelle Records, Madrid/Spain, 2008

CACHÉ
ALBUM LP/CD
Stickman Records, Hamburg, 2008

ÉCLAT
ALBUM LP/CD
Sticksister Records, Hamburg and
Paranoid Records, Caen/France, 2006

EVERY ONCE A WHILE
on: Spex Compilation, 2006

WHO, ME?
in: «Die Österreichische Methode»,
Trailer and Film, 2006

GEGENSTÜCK
on: Compilation:
«I can't relax in Deutschland», 2005

TREMA
MCD
Trans Solar Records, Berlin, 2004

FERRO
12INCH EP/MCD
Trans Solar Records, Berlin, 2003

VARA
7INCH
Dimmak Records/Steve Aoki, USA, 2001

LASER
ALBUM LP/CD
Trans Solar Records, Berlin, 1999

RADIO
12INCH EP/MCD
Trans Solar Records, Berlin, 1997

HOOK
7INCH
X-Mist Records, 1996

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The band was founded in 1996
by Helm Pfohl and Ahlie Schaubel

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PORTRAIT



Photography: David Spaeth, Lithography: Roger Bahcic
www.monochromeppgroup.com

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