



the Burdens - Uh Oh

Recorded by the Burdens at Stone Hill
and Wavelab Studios, Tucson, AZ
Mixed and mastered by Craig Schumacher
at Wavelab Studios

Lots of people are looking for something. Whether it's your keys, your drink, or your date, it gives us direction to be looking for something. That said, the Burdens' new record Uh Oh sounds like a band in search of something, but there is actually nothing negative or incomplete about this vibe at all. The Burdens make it work, telling a story in each song, whether with voice or instrumental. The Burdens' sound, much like the music of Cake, kind of plods around with hands folded behind its back, eternally in search of something. They had better not find whatever it is, because this is one pretty cool trip.

The Burdens could sound like an unpolished Modest Mouse, yet while Modest Mouse struts around and jolts, the Burdens just kind of swing around; a lot cooler about the whole situation. Uh Oh features some structured songs as well as a few forays into musical thought and philosophy. "So We are Thinking" is a harmonious piece of communication between two entities that we will refer to as "Left Guitar" and "Right Guitar." The magic in this track is that it doesn't sound like two dudes playing two guitars, it's a musical dialogue. The same thing happens in "Rain," except this time the rhythm section studiously tries to keep their vibe going, while a solo guitar comes in, stomping all over the place. The semi-instrumental track "Uh Oh" serves as kind of a palate-cleansing sorbet during the midpoint of the record, sounding very much like the drumbeat from the SNL Christmas song. Horatio Sanz, Chris Kattan, and Jimmy Fallon do not appear in this song; rather the Burdens repeatedly invoke the name and spirit of Roy G. Biv for reasons unknown. Whatever the reasoning behind their record, the Burdens have provided something of strong interest with Uh Oh. (self-released)

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-C.D. Di Guardia

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