

Interview with Dust of Soul

ARTICLE

To go an own way is never easy. If you then would like to follow a path that is not trodden down, a stony march is ahead of you. The duo Dust of Soul can literally sing a song about this.

Two are not to stop

“We make motivation music,” Michael Odermatt opens the conversation, he who forms the musical side of DUST OF SOUL under the artist name MiKey. The pianist would like to know the music of DUST OF SOUL understood as empowering, as music “that helps people in everyday life, to make decisions and to find solutions.” Michael Odermatt is sitting next to Saskia Stäuble aka Dusty, who impressively breathes new life into the songs of DUST OF SOUL with her powerful voice timbre. “We are actually the first motivation coaches who sing and play the Grand Piano,” she emphasizes not quite seriously the statement by Odermatt. Already in the first few minutes of the conversation it becomes clear: the world of DUST OF SOUL is characterized by warm humor, deep thoughts and honest emotions. One cannot imagine that at the beginning of all this was a blow of fate.

The inner voice

Review: Before DUST OF SOUL Saskia Stäuble had a very normal life in the broadest sense – what means she practiced a bona fide occupation and lived in a relationship. As it happens any dreams and desires fall by the wayside in favor of family planning and Co. In the case of Saskia Stäuble it was the desire to devote her life to the singing. In 2011, shortly before her thirtieth birthday, the unexpected happened though: “Just as I wanted to feed the cats, I broke down in the kitchen.” Brought to the hospital by her then-boyfriend, a stroke was diagnosed. Paralyzed on the left side and unable to speak, she was trapped in her own body. In the rest of their carnal prison she suddenly heard a voice. “I have no idea who spoke to me,” Stäuble recalls, “but this voice asked me why I did not sing?” An inner dialogue developed between Stäuble and this voice that culminated in a promise the native of Basel gave to herself: to pursue a career in music. “At that moment, when I made this inner decision, I could move my hand again,” commented Stäuble the beginning of their recovery. Looking back, she sees her stroke even as a response to an unfulfilled life: “If you suppress something you enjoy doing more than 20 years, then it has to come one day to a bang. I have always put my love for the singing in the back – at some point it was simply enough.”

On the way to DUST OF SOUL

Saskia Stäuble created the concept of DUST OF SOUL long before the first encounter with Michael Odermatt. In fact, the idea overcame her suddenly one night. So she was really torn up from sleep and suddenly saw everything in front of her: the artist name, the band

name, even the design of the website. In that one night DUST OF SOUL was born – at least on paper. Nevertheless Stäuble was still on the search for her own musical identity. Her way led her to the TV show “Die Grössten Schweizer Talente” (THE GREATEST SWISS TALENTS), where she faced a jury consisting, inter alia, of DJ Bobo.

“I conceded harsh criticism from the jury,” she comments today the anything but positive experience. Thereby not the singing of Stäuble was criticized, but rather she as a person: “The jury did not say I would have sung wrong, but they had offended me as a person. It is all just a show and has no longer anything to do with music. If an artist like DJ Bobo has a necessity to make fun of an artist name, then in my opinion this has nothing to do with humanity.” When so many others would have sadly retired to a dark little room humiliated after such an experience, Saskia Stäuble recorded this as a life experience – as a further step towards the true me. This included her journey in one of the mega cities in the world.

“When I arrived in New York at the airport, I felt immediately at home,” says Stäuble still swooning over her first trip to the city that never sleeps. Her stay in the United States learned Stäuble especially, “that always something can be made out of anything as long as one believes only in himself and does not get let down by setbacks.” Encouraged by the US ‘let’s do it’ mentality, she traveled back to Switzerland. There she met on July 15, 2012 Michael Odermatt, who is as addicted to music and New York. Both recognized in the other a musical and emotional soul mate. From this encounter eventually outgrew DUST OF SOUL.

The creativity of life

As with all artists the question arises also with DUST OF SOUL how the creative way of work is designed? Unlike other formations the music and lyrics are not in the first place at the songwriting, their life is. “We live our songs first. We first go through a certain life situation and then later a melody or a text is created,” Michael Odermatt explains the emergence of a typical DUST OF SOUL song.

As an exemplary example can serve the song LOST, in which according to Saskia Stäuble the moment is discussed, “when one feels completely lost and does not know how to proceed.” As witnessed basis for this song DUST OF SOUL was served with life situations that challenged them so much that they wondered what it would have to do with her dream? Against all odds, the two never gave up, but believed in themselves and the realization of their dream. There is no question: DUST OF SOUL is a brave duo, which also sees the sun, even if clouds cover it. Nevertheless there were moments in the past where they were intimidated by their own courage. Such as when both traveled to Tunisia, even though the legitimate fear was that they were striven after their lives.

Tunisia see and die?

Although there is currently no album, no EP and not a single to buy from DUST OF SOUL, the duo has already developed a considerable fan base on the World Wide Web. Specifically on Facebook, where more than 85,000 music lovers like Dusty and MiKey. Contrary to what one might expect, the uplifting and life-affirming music of DUST OF SOUL climes not the most virtual resonance from Switzerland, but from Tunisia. “More than half of our Facebook fans come from Tunisia,” Michael Odermatt tells to the record not without pride. Therefore, the next step was obvious: “We announced to give a concert

in Tunisia,” so Odermatt, “because the most fans are there, it made sense for us to play there.

Also were we able to find out if that was all true with the fans or if Facebook allowed a joke with us.” Inspired by euphoria and considering themselves to be a little naive, the sympathetic duo released during the concert announcement the exact arrival dates of their flight from Switzerland to Tunisia. The result: In addition to over 300 positive Facebook comments there was an unexpected shocking reaction: DUST OF SOUL received a death threat! “Someone wrote to us, he would kill us if we came to Tunisia,” Saskia Stäuble reviews the terrible news. The unknown aggressor made unmistakably clear that the music of DUST OF SOUL has no place in his home country. Of course, one does not take such a threat lightly, so also a rejection of the planned concert tour was under consideration. But in the end won the courage, finally one does not want to be intimidated by only one person. The day of arrival in Tunis was then anyway embossed with mixed feelings, or to put it in the words of Saskia Stäuble: “It was almost schizophrenic. On one hand, we were delighted to be in Tunisia; on the other hand, we knew that there might be someone waiting to kill us.” The great death did not come fortunately, rather was DUST OF SOUL received at the airport by the joyful faces of their fans. Fans, to whom DUST OF SOUL will return in the near future.

A look into the future

“We want our music to break the crusted minds of the people, to free them from barriers and stereotyped thinking and show them new opportunities and ways,” Saskia Stäuble explains the in sumptuous sounds and dreamy vocals embedded mission of DUST OF SOUL. A mission that takes place beyond every wagging finger and in the future will have larger and ambitious proportions. So is the establishment of their own record label on the do-to list such as the production of the first album. Likewise, there should be another concert trip to Tunisia, which is filmed this time. And then there are the plans for the first 4D musical of the world, whose songs are all already written. One realizes Saskia Stäuble and Michael Odermatt will go their way. From DUST OF SOUL you will be hearing a lot more in the future – in this sense:

TO BE CONTINUED ...

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