The Wirtschaftswunder

Preziosen & Profanes

(Singles & Raritäten 1980 - 1981)

CD / LP / Digital / 26. November 2021

Compilation with all singles, sampler contributions & rarities of the Limburg post-punk/neue welle/electro/left-field pioneers The Wirtschaftswunder. Including the songs from the first EP 'Allein' released in 1980 on Warning/Ata Tak and the songs from the uber-single "Television/Kommissar" (ZickZack, 1980). Essential compilation of one of the most important German bands of the 80s.

Anruf Schallplattenfirma (Record company phone call)
A little bit of fun. The first recording ... before Angelo. On the first demo tape, 1979.

1980
A year on the road as The Wirtschaftswunder for Tom, Jürgen and me (Mark).. We still need a frontman. I find Angelo in Zoom, a popular punk/new wave discotheque. It's the place to be, attracting punters from everywhere, the entire Rhine Main region. Hippies are the dominant force in Frankfurt at this time. Angelo auditions at one of our rehearsals. Tom and I had shared singing duties until then but without any great conviction. Angelo's bizarre, charming vocals are just what we need. The band is complete.

Ratinger Hof
On stage at Ratinger Hof, Dusseldorf, three months later. With Fehlfarben and Östro 430. The stuff of legends. Clubs and labels from all over Germany have us in their sights.

Ata Tak
The height of summer. One Sunday, Frank Fenstermacher and Moritz R, Ata Tak label impresarios and members of Der Plan, arrive in Limburg. Their sports aeroplane touches down at the airfield in Elz. We sign our first record deal and deliver one EP: Allein, So ist es, Politsong (don't listen) and Metall.

Der Kommissar and Television
We switch to ZickZack, a Hamburg label. Der Kommissar track is an adaption of the theme tune to a 1960s TV police drama series of the same name. Interrogation scenes are spliced together on a tape recorder. Sampling before there was such a thing. Angelo voices the murderer. The confession. "She was only a hippie girl." B-side: Television.

"Ich steh' auf Hagen" (I'm into Hagen)
A gig at Neue Heimat in Hagen. At breakfast the following morning at the promoter's shared apartment, Wolfgang Luthe hands us a cassette of his totally distorted screeching vocals. "Can you do anything with this?"
Time for the cassette recorder again. Everyday noises and recordings in the finest musique concrete tradition.

"Träum Was Schönes" (sweet dreams)
Final track. Exit stage left. How we ended every concert. Auf Wiedersehen.

Tracklisting

1. Anruf Schallplattenfirma
2. Allein
3. So ist es
4. Politsong (Don't Listen)
5. Metall
6. Kommissar
7. Television
8. Ich steh auf Hagen (mit Wolfgang Luthe)
9. Träum was schönes

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CD 209832
4015698524222

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4015698224030

Promotion

Sean Newsham
+49 (0)176 307 30158
sean@tapeterecords.com
www.tapeterecords.com