



Ozma - Pasadena
Engineered by Billy Burke
Mixed by Matt Hyde Mastered by Mark Chalecki at Capitol Mastering
Produced by Ozma, Billy Burke and Greg Doyle

Ozma is often compared to Weezer because of the band's similar power-pop and indie-rock musical styles. The group's newest release, Pasadena, gets cameo support from Nada Surf's frontman, Matthew Caws, and Rachel Haden of That Dog and The Rentals, yet manages to carve out its own path across L.A.'s musical landscape. Album opener "No One Needs to Know" is very pop-rock oriented.

The band surprises listeners with a mid-section that gets a bit more adventurous by mixing sashaying lounge drums with a moseying guitar two-note sidestep, coupled with a Hitchcock-esque element of surprise via flute. "Lunchbreak (Cobras Theme)" is a fun, upbeat arrangement with echo-affected vocals in the beginning that speed-warp the mind back to the days of talent shows in high school auditoriums. Heavy keyboards give the track a very progressive, electro feel.

"Heartache vs. Heartbreak" is Pasadena's standout track. Co-vocals from keyboardist Star Wick bring a sweetness and innocence to the song, hooking the listener immediately. Once again capitalizing on the mid-section of the song, Ozma also introduces sound bytes from an Atari-style video game. The use of these elements seems especially fitting as the chorus - "And we almost believed it was love / Yeah, we nearly perceived it as love / You know I would have sworn it was love" - tells that in hindsight, the relationship was nothing more than a game.

Despite the comparisons, Ozma is using its musical influences to create a sound all its own. (About A Girl Records/Reincarnate Music)

www.ozmaonline.com

-Krystal laeger