

KMFDM

“Tohuvabohu” (Metropolis)

In the Old Testament, “Tohuvabohu” refers to the state of chaos in the universe prior to creation. Growing up, Sascha Konietzko's mother used the

word to describe the “state of chaos” that was his bedroom. In using the same word as the title of KMFDM's latest canon, one can't help but think that band mastermind Konietzko is making some subtle commentary regarding the world today.



As KMFDM approach the quarter-century mark, the sole constant has been Konietzko, who despite his prolific resume, has released more band members than he has albums. On “Tohuvabohu” - the fifteenth studio effort from the band whose name is the abbreviation of *Kein Mitleid Fur Die Mehrheit*, German for No Pity for the Majority - there's little variance from the hyper-active pacing and razor-sharp riffing that has marked the band's catalog. But why bother changing? Sure, the tweaked disco underbelly of “Looking for Strange” is reminiscent of 1995's breakthrough single “Juke Joint Jezebel” and the title track whips and spins like a techno livewire that KMFDM has frayed many times before, but there's little room to nitpick when the heavy metal meltdown, kick-drum frenzy of “Saft Und Kraft” takes over, and the infectious dance rhythm of “Not in my Name” spins the album into a cathartic blitz, vocalist Lucia Cifarelli splashing the proceedings with a sexy color and mind-bending demeanor.

While it's not likely that “Tohuvabohu” will garner KMFDM any more recognition than the many just-as-deserving albums that came before it, it does warrant extra attention given the recent spotlight cast on aggro-dance, industrial-flavored acts including Infected Mushroom and VNV Nation. KMFDM have been doing it longer than many of these bands have been alive, and “Tohuvabohu” offers a convincing argument that they may still do it better.

-Paul Gargano