

PRINCE

Title	Xpection
Period of recording	1st quarter 2002
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Label	NPG Records
Formats available	download mp3
Contents	Xhalation [2:03] Xcogitate [3:33] Xemplify [5:53] Xpection [4:01] Xotica [3:05] Xogenous [4:11] Xpand [6:10] Xosphere [3:34] Xpedition [8:23]
Singles	[none]



Definitely the year 2002 will have been one year very jazz for Prince. After CD "One Nite Alone" (piano), the round with Candy Dulfer and Maceo Parker, and the box live which followed, Prince delivers to us at the end of the year a new album entitled "Xpection".

The major part of this album was recorded during the winter 2001-2002, just after the exit of "The Rainbow Children". Announced a long time as being the album "Xenophobia" (there even was a Celebration with Paisley Park in June 2002 bearing this name), Prince decided with final to eliminate this title from the concept of the album and to re-elect it "Xpection". The presence of "Xenophobia" on the box "One Nite Alone... Live "hardly left two weeks earlier is most probably the cause.

Indeed, "Xpection" was placed at the disposal of the subscribers of the NPG Music Club as of January 1, 2003, at exactly midnight and a minute, is very right two weeks after the delivery of the first boxes "One Nite Alone... Live "!! It is shortest intervale between two albums of Prince! It is possible that the laments of the members who related to the contents of the Club into 2002 were heard and that Prince wanted to finish the year in beauty... and to begin the news well in the same way!

This being said, "Xpection" resembles one "experiment more" (it is besides the word used by the site to present the project) that with a true album. It is rather a collection of instrumental pieces making it possible to emphasize the talents of Candy Dulfer the sax, John Blackwell to the battery and Vanessa Mae to the violin. Small the wonder Chinese brings either a beautiful tonality melancholic person, or of the fantastic flights to certain pieces. The style of play of Candy Dulfer is also very present and one could almost think that it is it the high-speed motorboat of the disc. However Blackwell strikes extremely behind, and it would be said that Prince was erased behind his musicians. Its play of keyboard in particular resembles extremely that of Renato Neto, and much of sounds seem to us familiar. Remain Rhonda Smith which holds the low one, but it is completely eclipsed by the others.

Thus, as opposed to what one could first of all think, "Xpection" does not resemble at all so that Prince made for Madhouse. One finds here sonorities revealed on "The Rainbow Children" and box live ONA, in particular with regard to the keyboards, the saturated piano, or certain guitars. For as much, the music presented here is not truly accessible. One sinks very deeply in the jazz-rock'n'roll fusion with allusions to the funk and jams déconstruits that it is sometimes difficult to follow. The addition of the violin in this context is rather particular.

"Xhalation" opens on a bottom of remote keyboard in echo, carried by the violin melancholic person of Vanessa Mae. Of entry of play, the style indicates. One passes almost immediately to "Xcogitate" which remains in a rather slow vein, perfect for a week rainy end. The sounds of keyboard in the style of "MUSE 2 The Pharaoh" supplement this title rather close to the slow fox trots made by Madhouse. It should be noted that the sax is out of Re-recording, it is has to say that Candy played several parts of saxophones mixed at the same time.

"Xemplify" is merrier and sounds like the jazz be-bop of the Thirties. With new, one finds this sound of keyboard. The piece grows louder and louder between the solos and the harmonies of each musician.

"Xpection" is a little faster and emphasize well the play of John Blackwell, often accompanied by a guitar to the very strange sound, and keyboards funk. Return to the ballades with "Xotica", rather sympathetic nerve and "Xogenous" which sees Prince taking the guitar for sonorities that one had ever heard as much jazzy at his place.

"Xpand" is the title more funky of the album, with a sound of saturated keyboard which brings a good groove to the unit. In the content, one hears like crackings of vinyl. "Xosphere" makes it possible to find at the same time the guitar jazz/soul and the keyboards of "The Rainbow Children". Finally the album finishes in beauty with the length "Xpedition", which is concluded in a brass band with multiple solos. A cry of baby will be the final sound of the album.

In the last analysis, here certainly one of the most original and experimental albums of Prince... it had already accustomed us to the odd one but this time it goes really far, and it frankly dissociates pop label which one knew of him at one time. If "The Rainbow Children" and "ONA Live" sounded brilliant but accessible, this album is rough music which it will still be necessary to decode during months. It did not finish astonishing us the Prince!!