



„LIVING MEANS PREPARING TO LEAVE“

Catch Lunik live in Germany: 4 March in Konstanz,
12 March in Freiburg. www.lunik.com

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LUNIK
Lunik is arguably the most famous contemporary Swiss band on the local scene, releasing their fourth album „Preparing to Leave“ at the end of 2006, which rocketed to the top of the Swiss charts. The group from Berne has evolved from trip hop to rock since their formation in 1998 and has recently toured Germany, appearing with home-grown artists Juli and Liquio. Inside Switzerland talks to the charismatic front woman Jaël about success, change and dreams of conquering Deutschland.

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So Jaël, why choose the album title „Preparing to Leave“?

The title is philosophical. Life is a journey and the lyrics of the title song say „Living means preparing to leave“. I had the idea for this title in a hotel room; we were touring and living out of our suitcases. That was an absolutely new experience for all of us.

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Your professional environment seems to have altered quite a bit since your last album: new musicians, new management, new booking agents. What's the reason for so many changes?

Our drummer wanted to start something new after almost a decade in the band. We changed our managers and bookers because we simply didn't share the same views regarding our start in Germany. Switching to a smaller German record label from a large international company has meant that we have more control over our destiny.

We wanted to work with people who knew the German market, as we felt that was the next country that we should be aiming for. We didn't want to do everything from Switzerland. We also wanted to be really proactive when it came to planning the move to Germany, not to start by just thinking about what we want there or to wait until we'd

made progress before developing a strategy. I often see this approach in Swiss bands. They feel they have to wait first to see if something works out, and then, only then, do they leave their jobs and give music their full attention. It's a shame to say it, but local artists often lack the impetus to go abroad and work hard for their success.

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Why the decision to make a go of it in Germany, especially as you sing in English?

Lunik has never stood still. As a band we've become more successful, and this step was therefore just a logical continuation of our group's history. Germany has one of the biggest music markets worldwide and it's easier to make contacts as we speak the same language. Big labels often see Switzerland, Austria and Germany as one entity, with Germany as the leader. We're really open to new experiences and nobody can foresee the future – for us that's really exciting.

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What does success mean to you? Have you any goals for your musical career that you dream of fulfilling?

For me, more of a dream than a goal is to play and maybe release an album in Scandinavia, since I listen to a lot of their music and have worked with Scandinavian producers before. But I think that's very unrealistic. People up there aren't waiting for a band from Switzerland, and their market is really tailored to their own national music stars – some of whom are internationally successful. Maybe I'm too pessimistic. I tend to believe that things won't work out. To be honest, I don't have any precise goals of what I want to achieve. Making the charts doesn't mean all that much to me. Of course, I'm happy if an album sells well, but I'm afraid to think too positively... which means that I'm always pleasantly surprised when things go well for us.