



st album *Let the Night In*

**SA Music Award-winning South African rock outfit Prime Circle are excited to be exploring adventurous new musical horizons on their sixth studio album, *Let the Night In*, which was released recently.**

Denholm Harding, the producer of *Let the Night In*, describes it as “the most stylistically diverse record Prime Circle have done to date”.

With the recognisable Prime Circle sound still firmly in place, *Let the Night In* ventures into progressive new territory – such as the hip-hop inflections evident on ***Gone***, the first radio single from the album.

Fans will also be intrigued to hear influences of electronica and other genres melding with the distinctive Prime Circle contemporary rock sensibility.

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Ross Learmonth says the band had “a lot of fun” in crafting the album and “adding the colours, contrasts and layers ... it was all about what’s best for the music”.

“The last album was influenced by our experiences touring Germany, and was heavier,” he says. “This time around, it’s more about what we can do as a band – satisfying a need we had to make the type of music we love listening to. From Bush and Soundgarden to Placebo and Radiohead, we listened to them again – and were inspired by them rather than influenced by them.”

Thinking back to these albums that formed the soundtrack to their own lives, the five band members resolved to make a record of substance that wasn’t over-produced “candyfloss” but instead left enough to the listener’s emotions and imagination.

Harding – who, as the bass player with Just Jinjer, knows the pressures that come with being in a band with longevity – says that after 13 years of being at the forefront of the local music scene, “music has changed and so have Prime Circle”.

Sidestepping trying to sound “current” at the expense of their artistic integrity, the band wanted to leave something behind of quality – which they believe they have accomplished on ***Let the Night In***. It’s still Prime Circle, but pushes more boundaries and is infused with a fresh, progressive sensibility.

“Ross has risen to the challenge in terms of the calibre of songwriting and musicianship on this album, and everyone in the band was 100% committed and just synchs,” Harding believes.

***Let the Night In*** is the product of several months of solid work at the SABC studios in Auckland Park, Johannesburg, with the album subsequently mixed in Texas, mastered in New York and engineered in South Africa.

Among the vintage SABC recording equipment used was an “old-school” Neve analogue mixing console similar to the one depicted in the Dave Grohl-directed documentary *Sound City* – bringing a rich, authentic and textured sound to the music.

“This album is about Prime Circle giving back to music, as fans of music themselves,” Harding believes. It’s a record made with artistic integrity that has musical muscle, and proves that music doesn’t have to sound heavy to have weight.”

Adds Learmonth: “We’re extremely happy with the progression of our sound. Because it hasn’t been too quick, it makes it more real – and something that we cherish.”

- Prime Circle headed for Europe for an extensive 30-date European tour to promote ***Let the Night In***, the first leg was kicked off at the end of June, and the second leg will take place in October. The band will also be launching the album with a local tour of the major centres in July and August, further details of which will be announced soon.
- Prime Circle are: Ross Learmonth (guitar and vocals); Marco Gomes (bass); Dale Schnettler (drums); Neil Breytenbach (keyboards) and Dirk Bisschoff (guitar)

## **Let the Night In: Track listing**

**1 . *Let the Night In***

**2 . *Gone***

**3 . *My City***

**4 . *Doors***

**5 . *Before the Fire Burns Out***

**6 . *The Fallout***

**7 . *Yeah***

**8 . *Bastards***

**9 . *On Top of the World***

**10 . *Blame it on Me***

**11 . *Not Alone***

**12 . *I Am***

### **13. *Batten Down the Hatches***

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