

# Biography Illumion



Country: the Netherlands

Style: Symphonic and progressive rock with a feminine twist

## *The Musicians:*

In 2002, after graduating from the conservatory, department jazz and pop, Eveline wanted an ensemble to give the music in her head a voice. She formed a band with the following professional musicians: Peter H. Boer, bassist of Songs of the Exile (Musea Records), Ulysses and Dwaalspoor, Esther Ladiges, known for her vocal contributions to Sangamo, Ayreon, Ixion and Unicorn, and Emile Boellaard, drummer of Songs of the Exile, Erik van Muiswinkel and the famous Dutch duo Hadewych Minis & Mike Boddé.

In January 2010, Tom Rutgers took over Emile's place behind the drums, a young enthusiastic drummer, currently a student at the Conservatory of Alkmaar. Illumion's new keyboard player is Gerton Leijdekker, who is also the guitarist/vocalist/composer of Songs of the Exile, bringin not only keyboards but also nylon string guitar and guitar-synth to the sonic palette..

## *Releases:*

### *Into The Labyrinth*

In 2004, a first demo was produced independently by Illumion: 'Into The Labyrinth', containing three songs, composed by Eveline.

Two years later, 'Into The Labyrinth part II' appeared containing six songs, which included three covers of Pain of salvation, Fates Warning and Ark.

### *Hunting For Significance*

Recorded over a period of 4 years , Illumion released their debut album "Hunting For Significance" with Progress Records (Sweden) in May 2009.

Its music is dreamlike symphonic and progressive with jazz influences and definite feminine edges. Historical and literary themes form the basis for the lyrics, closely interwoven with the mysticism of the human mind. Imaginative literary inspiration for this album among others are: Oscar Wilde, William Blake, Charles Dickens, Franz Kafka and Edgar Allan Poe. The songs integrate catchy choruses, melancholic verses and dynamic bridges with solos and madrigalesque part-singing. The unexpected turn of events is one of the main themes of this

album, which leads to surprising musical twists and turns. The album shows a huge variety in atmosphere.

Special guests have performed on this album in order to make the music as varied and interesting as possible. Exotic instruments have not been shunned: the Irish flute, the Chinese two-stringed spike fiddle (erhu) and the Chinese four-stringed lute (pipa) are neatly assimilated into western musical structures. Illumion has chosen to deviate from conventional paths in order to create a unique style and atmosphere.

Hunting for Significance contains 11 original compositions, with a total length of almost 60 minutes. The CD comes with a 16 page full-colour booklet and decorated inlay.

### *The Waves*

Written and recorded in less than 2 years, "The Waves" shows a band that has grown. The songs again all started out on Eveline's musical framework and lyrics, but have evolved into a fuller band effort. Still incorporating the typical Illumion elements of progressive, symphonic and jazz influences, modern synths/textures are added and the songs dynamics have been increased.

Strong guitar riffs are quickly followed by liquid synths and pulsing rhythms interrupted by nylon string guitar or monstrous Taurus pedals. Increased interplay between the lead vocals and backing vocals, that now include 2 male voices, add to the tonal variety.

Special guests again appear to even further the diversity, this time including Guzheng (Chinese zither), trumpet and the voice of Arjen (Ayreon) Lucassen.

Illumion signed a new deal with a new label Freia Music, who specialize in vinyl releases so The Waves comes as a combi pack containing an 11 song double album on HQ 180g vinyl plus a 9 song CD

### *The press:*

Here are some excerpts of the reviews for Hunting For Significance:

"Delivers in full a supercompetent progressive disc, that give a taste for repeat listenings" (Artrock.se), "Illumion: a group to be discovered" (Prog-mania.com), "This enlightened company hunts for recognition and, in my opinion, seems to succeed very nicely, Hats off to Lady van Kampen" (iO Pages), "This album has an international shine. A curtsy and applause are in order" (progwereld.org), "A group to watch" (prog-nose.org), "Definitely a CD to check out asap!" (strutterzine.angelfire.com), "When it comes to progressive rock albums so far this year, I feel this stands forward as a highlight" (melodichardrocktoday.tk), "We look forward to several significant albums from these musicians from the clog country" (merlinprog.com)

### *Live:*

"Hopefully the venues will recognise the talents of Eveline van Kampen and her band mates and book them for more shows: they deserve it!" (dprp.net)

### **Current bandmembers:**

Esther Ladiges – vocals, percussion

Eveline van Kampen – guitars, erhu, backing vocals

Peter H. Boer – bass, Stick, Taurus, backing vocals

Tom Rutgers – drums, percussion

Gerton Leijdekker – keyboards, guitars, guitar-synth, backing vocals

### **Contact information:**

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### **Websites:**

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Illumion/223130594369265?ref=ts&fref=ts>