**Death by Synth.**

9:30 Club, 1 February 2017

The London-based four-piece [White Lies](http://whitelies.com/) (@whiteliesmusic) kicked off their U.S. tour to a half-filled [9:30 Club](http://www.930.com/) (@930Club) on February 1st. Promoting their most recent and fourth studio album, [*Friends*](https://www.amazon.com/Friends-White-Lies/dp/B01HRA3TN0/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1487356464&sr=8-1&keywords=white+lies+friends)*,* the band delivered a monotonous, 90-minute show with front-man Harry McVeigh (@HarryWhiteLies) singing love song after long song. (Is Harry in love with, well, love? Sorry, we couldn’t [resist](https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/2467361970/xb49rj3fpprdtid39ap3.jpeg).)

Timewarp to the 1980s? You bet ya!

Synth-pop is here and the White Lies’ corny lyrics, overly-simplified (yet danceable and catchy) tunes, and one-tone vocalist typified the resurgence of cheese. The band [opened](http://www.setlist.fm/setlist/white-lies/2017/930-club-washington-dc-63f83a47.html) with [Take It Out On Me](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z7hxzMBc6I), weaving in and out of the “emo”-driven lyrics of [There Goes Our Love Again](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Cn4huIqY8o), [Hold Back Your Love](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-8KqT_lSzc), and [The Price of Love](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMJaSStk6w0). (Did we mention McVeigh loves love?) True to how I felt by the end of the set, the band ended with [Death](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWROL973r7U), a 5-minute synth track attempting to lift me to heavenly heights. Fail. I nearly left before the band returned to play a 4-song encore.

Purple and pink lights colored the stage set-up against a smattering of strobe lights. Think: New Order’s 1983 [performance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV7LKjTV5oI) of Blue Monday. The crowd may have bobbed. But, we were not moved. Except for the 6’6” dude wearing his sailor shirt and black framed glasses dancing his heart out (mad props!), the crowd showed its excitement through smiles and frowns (mezzanine).

Who knows… perhaps the White Lies were shaking off the rust of a 2-month vacation?

Distortion Review: 2.0 / 5.0

* Fuzzboxx (@FuzzboxxDC)