

“Liar” – Mats Dernánd, &Tilly

a true Slovakian/Swedish discovery trip



The &Tilly duo continue their musical journey and their habit of occasionally inviting other artists to join them along on the way. This time, Swedish singer-songwriter Mats Dernánd stepped in to be a co-creator of “Liar” – a unique song falling somewhere in the indie singer-songwriter/dream pop landscape.

– When I thanked Tilly (the female half of the duo) for adding one of my earlier songs to one of her playlists, her response was, “You’re

welcome. I’d actually want to create something with you. Would you be into a collab?” Considering Vii’s (the male half of &Tilly) stunning productions and Tilly’s magnetic voice, the answer was easy, says Mats.

– I have known Mats’ music for some time already. I always thought there was a lot of depth and a huge amount of talent behind it. I felt like I knew him in a way, so when we talked over a playlist placement at the time, I was perhaps more open than usual and asked him about a possible collaboration quite directly. It felt right and exciting, Tilly says.

The story continued with Tilly sending two rough song ideas to Mats, of which Mats chose one. At the same time, the &Tilly duo began their move from Bratislava, Slovakia, to their new home in Prague, Czechia.

– I fell for Tilly’s wonderful song “Liar” immediately, says Mats. Based on the demo, I made the first step of what would become a



sort of digital relay race. I love collaborations. They can take you to places that would have been unreachable otherwise. And the trip with &Tilly was no exception.

– The song was very soft and vulnerable in its demo version. I was hoping Mats' style would lift it to heights I would not expect - and I was not wrong. I loved how Mats' ideas, literally, did just that right from the start. He made it develop and embrace directions I would never think of, Tilly admits.

"Liar" reflects on an end of a relationship. It may feel full of blame at the start; however, the real subject of it is how conventions and expectations can lead to frustration about half-truths and white lies that the partners create to calm the other down, to convince themselves it will be alright right before the end.

– I call the song an anti-duet, perhaps because it is the opposite of what duets usually look like – like love will win in the end or how one finds their other half in the other. It won't happen like that in this one... Love isn't always enough. The lyrics aren't about one person in particular; they speak about the feeling in that before-the-end state more, Tilly reveals.

From Tilly's sparse demo, the production grew into a much more epic sound that somehow surprised everyone involved.

– Both me and Vii are producers, says Mats. That could be one producer too many for any collaboration. But from day one, this process was both very smooth and enjoyable. The song theme might have helped us. It would be unthinkable to produce a song like "Liar" and, at the same time, not be 100% honest with each other. Vii did the final mix on a level that I couldn't have accomplished. An obvious way to maximize our strengths.

On March 22, Liar was premiered on Swedish P4 Örebro Radio, followed by a release the next day on all streaming platforms, including Youtube. The Monopoly-themed video was filmed in Sweden as well as in the Czech Republic and produced on &Tilly side.

– We were driving in the car somewhere when I had a random thought that if there's one thing where everyone gets frustrated and arguing, it's the Monopoly game. Mats agreed on the topic, and so we tried what we could do for the video. We went for a moody one where Mats' side is more in order, and the Monopoly is super vintage – while "my" side is rather messy, even if it's a newer edition of the game. I love contrasts, and it works with the contrast of love and end well, Tilly shares.



Mats Dernánd

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