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NAZARETH 'Rock 'n' Roll Telephone' (Salvo/Union Square)

Joe Geesin



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Now here's a band with some serious pedigree, and history. This, their 23rd studio album, is a return to form after more two lacklustre (by Naz standards) outings, and could sadly well mark the end of an era.

Formed in the late 60s out of the ashes of ballroom covers band The Shadettes, with the addition of Mark V guitarist Manuel 'Manny' Charlton, who added quite a bluesy edge, Nazareth soon became hard touring regulars around the world. Across a number of labels in the 70s the band had several hits, including 'Bad Bad Boy' and 'Broken Down Angel'; it was, however, covers of 'Love Hurts' (The Everly Brothers), 'This Flight Tonight' (Joni Mitchel) and 'My White Bicycle' (Tomorrow) that gave the band global success, their versions of the first two widely considered definitive.

Others came and went, including Billy Rankin, SAHB guitarist Zal Cleminson and Spirit pianist John Locke, before Manny left the band at the end of the 80s.

Article continues below...



EXCLUSIVE: RED DRAGON CARTEL GIGS BACK ON - BAND TO PLAY MANCHESTER AND BUCKLEY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
Tickets for both shows will be at the special price of £10 as a gesture to fans who were inconvenienced by last weekend's events..



ALZ-GRINDERS PLAN GRINDING FOR A CURE VOL 4
Over 300 extreme bands have contributed the fundraising albums so far...



LINE-UP FOR CAMBRIDGE ROCK FESTIVAL ALMOST COMPLETE
The main stage is booked and stages 2 and are filling up fast...



ANVIL REPLACE DEATH ANGEL FOR HEADBANGERS OPEN AIR
After Death Angel cancelled their entire European tour, Anvil step in with a special "best of" set...



ULI JON ROTH CANCELS GUITAR GODS DATES IN NORTH AMERICA
It's official - this guitar god has been grounded by visa problems...



JOE BONAMASSA ANNOUNCES NEW STUDIO ALBUM 'DIFFERENT SHADES OF BLUE'
The new album of all original material lands 22nd September...



BREAKING NEWS: RED DRAGON CARTEL ISSUE STATEMENT OVER WOLVERHAMPTON GIG CANCELLATION
The band made a barbed official statement denying the reasons for the cancellation by the promoter without actually addressing the main issue...



BREAKING NEWS: RED DRAGON CARTEL CANCEL WOLVERHAMPTON SHOW, REST OF UK TOUR IS OFF, DOWNLOAD IN JEOPARDY
An argument broke out between the band and promoter Denise Dale who was representing Metal Music Bookings and Management...



ULI JON ROTH FACES CANCELLATION OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN GUITAR GODS TOUR
"The tour is in jeopardy...this has never happened in over thirty years of visas..."



LES-FEST ANNOUNCES MAIN STAGE TIM
Get the latest from Scotland's premier Meta festival right here...



METAL FEST BEERMAGEDDON STRENGTH THE LINE UP YET AGAIN...WITH EVEN MC TO BE ANNOUNCED
Jaldabaoth, Monumentomb and Furyborn are among the latest additions...



DORIAN SORRIAU FROM BLUES PILLS PERFORMS A GUITAR PLAY-THROUGH OF THE BAND'S NEW TRACK
Watch and learn as Dorian deconstructs 'Hi Class Woman'...

CJ WILDHEART RELEASES FIRST SOLO

FEATURES

DUTCH MICHAELS' GIG OF THE WEEK



Tesla, 02 Academy Islington, Thursday 12th June 2014

THE INTREPID FOX'S VIEW FROM THE BAR



Present And Future... Paint It Black

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION... WIN A SIGNED COPY OF THE NEW LIVE KROKUS ALBUM



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WINNER OF D-A-D EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED



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LOOPY WORLD: THE EARLY HISTORY OF IRON MAIDEN



Part Fifteen c - That's The End Of Me Then

HEADBANGER'S KITCHEN



Part Eleven: Uncle Sunny's Mac n' Cheese With Albatross

CHRIS DALE'S METAL MELTDOWN



Featuring Scream For Me Sarajevo Parts 1 to 3

A PERSONAL INVITE FROM GENE AND PAUL TO PLAY KISS ONLINE SLOT



You Wanted The Best, You Got The Best!

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE RONNIE JAMES DIO STAND UP AND SHOUT CANCER FUND



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Ronnie James Dio Stand Up And Shout Cancer Fund

The current line up (on the CD) include founder members Dan McCafferty (vocals) and Pete Agnew (bass) – although Dan has recently announced his retirement due to ill health – with guitarist Jimmy Murrison (who debuted on 1998's wonderful 'Boogaloo') and Lee Agnew (Pete's son, who took the drum stool after Darrell Sweet's passing shortly after the release of 'Boogaloo').

Now onto 'Rock 'n' Roll' Telephone, sadly McCafferty's swansong – which opens with the excellent 'Boom Bang Bang'. Some excellent guitar work and a good riff (although on its own, before the band come in, an intro that took me a few listens to get used to) – and McCafferty's vocals as gravelly as ever.

There's a touch of funk to the guitar and bass and the drums pound heavily (not too sure on the drum sound at times). Next up is 'One Set Of Bones', which sees Agnew Jr fitting into Sweet's shoes well. A couple of chords are reminiscent of 1981's 'Crazy', and other riffs have a moody feel. Then there's the chorus that sees Dan reach a higher range than normal – well worth a listen.

'Back 2B4' is a change of pace and feel – much more melodic with an almost acoustic feel, it's hark back to 'Malice In Wonderland'/'Fool Circle'. Again Dan on form here, and Pete's bass sounds spot on too.

'Winter Sunlight' is a slower atmospheric number, and the title track is heavy with big production, a solid more metallic number and some trademark fuzz on the bass. 'Punch A Hole The Sky' is a real uptempo rocker, this a nod to some seriously classic Naz albeit at the heavy end.



Photo credit: Mark Bryce

The overall feel is hard rock verging on Metal – not as bluesy as early material, but definitely so far so good. Then we hit 'Long Long Time', with effects and programming in the intro and in the rhythms. It's a not a bad track by any means, by a long way, but it does sound out of place on a Nazareth album, it's more the kind of thing you'd find on a solo album. 'The Right Time', a softer almost balladic track, is again not the strongest. But things turn around with 'Not Today', a slower heavy number with a moody riff.



ALBUM IN SEVEN YEARS
'Mable' is available for pre-order now via PledgeMusic. CJ will also be releasing his own brand of hot sauces this year...



HRH AOR ANNOUNCE FIRST 10 BANDS
FM, Dare, The Poodles and Starz lead the charge for March 2015...



ASIA ANNOUNCE A UK TOUR FOR AUTUMN 2014
"We've played to audiences globally, but playing at home in the UK is always a major event for us"...



WOLF UNVEIL BRAND NEW VIDEO FOR 'DEMON'
The Swedish stalwarts offer a first taste of new album...



DEVIN TOWNSEND'S 'CASUALTIES OF COOL' PROJECT REVEALS NEW VIDEO
"The genesis of it was rooted was in the frustration of it all, Frustrated by the loud".



BIOHAZARD RE-SIGN WITH NUCLEAR BLAST
Following their European summer tour, the band will enter the studio to record the follow up album to 2012's Reborn In Defiance...



GIBSON AND SONISPHERE HAVE TEAMED UP TO OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE OFFICIAL VIDEOGRAPHER OF SONISPHERE 2014
An amazing chance to document the inner workings of the festival...



THE KING LOT RELEASE DEBUT SINGLE 'UNTIL MY DYING DAY'
There will be further tour dates following the album release in August 2014...



UK TECH-FEST ANNOUNCES STAGE TIME AND DAY TICKETS
The festival for the best in emerging music also secured support from the Arts Council England...



MORGOTH ANNOUNCE EUROPEAN TOUR WITH BOLT THROWER
The Death Metalers are in the studio working on new material...



HUNDRED REASONS TO PERFORM 'IDEA! ABOVE OUR STATION' IN FULL AT SONISPHERE
And still they come ... Yet more acts announced for the July weekend...



ANDREW O'NEILL'S 'HISTORY OF HEAVY METAL' COMES TO EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE
"The funniest vegan transvestite comedian the whole of time and space"...



JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR ANNOUNCES UK TOUR DATES AND PRE-ORDER OF NEW ALBUM
Support on the 14 date run comes from special guest Bernie Marsden...



SECRET CINEMA PRESENTS BACK TO THE FUTURE IN LONDON
This summer California's Hill Valley comes to London for an amazing live cinema experience...



DRAGONFORCE REVEAL NEW DRUMMER
As Dave Mackintosh leaves the band for Pro Rock, Gee Anzalone takes the seat for the upcoming UK tour...



BREAKING NEWS: ICED EARTH CANCEL 2014 DATES
Jon is naturally extremely disappointed about this and has made a statement which you can read in full here...



'Speakeasy' is more exciting, and the album's closer, 'God Of The Mountain', is the highlight of the whole album. This track was issued late last year as a signature track of the Austrian winter Olympics team (that CD single is now quite a rarity). This is uptempo, thunderous, catchy, blistering (fuck me, check out that guitar solo), everything a good Nazareth album should start and finish with.

It would be totally unfair to say the last couple of outings lacked soul, but there's a rejuvenation, a spark, much more feeling here.

The sad news is that Dan is no longer touring with the band; I spoke with him soon after the announcement and he sounded good, and realistic about looking after himself. I'm looking forward to hearing tracks from this album live with the band's new vocalist Linton Osborne.

Look out for a 2LP edition of this set, and a 2CD with extra tracks.



17.4.14



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TERRAPLANE DEBUT ALBUM REISSUE CELEBRATED WITH RARE DOUBLE SINGLE RELEASE

Thunder's alter-ego release tracks featuring Jools Holland and Ruby Turner...



CALL FOR BANDS TO BE PART OF FRENCH COMPILATION ALBUM

Independent label La Bam Prod is releasing 'HeadBamgers' in September and needs your contribution...



THRASHBACK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF THRASH METAL

Wear your Thrash T Shirt to work on June 6 and win some fantastic prizes including VIP Sonisphere tickets...



GOATWHORE UNLEASH FIRST TASTE OF 'CONSTRICTING RAGE OF THE MERCILES

New Orleans Metal legion showcase their new album with the track 'FBS'...



CHASING DRAGONS KICK OFF UK TOUR WITH TWO EP LAUNCH SHOWS

Catch the official launch of 'Checkmate' in Leeds and London...



CROWBAR DEBUT NEW MUSIC VIDEO FOR 'WALK WITH KNOWLEDGE WISELY'

The first of two videos from the album 'Symmetry In Black' is revealed...



BRUCE DICKINSON REACHES FOR THE SONISPHERE SKY WITH A SPECTACULAR WW1 TRIBUTE AIR DISPLAY

Aces High at Sonisphere on 5th July with an unforgettable air show ...



BREAKING NEWS: MARCO MENDOZA LEAVES BLACK STAR RIDERS AND IS REPLACED BY ROBBIE CRANE

"Marco will always be part of the BSR family and a true friend of ours. We are very happy to introduce Robbie Crane to everyone as a new BSR bass player..."



EXCLUSIVE: HOSTILE CONFIRMED AS SUPPORT TO MACHINE HEAD ON UK TOUR

"The band are excited to be playing with Machine Head as they grew up on their music..."



HIGH ON FIRE BEGIN WORK ON NEW ALBUM

"Chew on some mescaline and listen to side of Sabbath's 'Master of Reality' backwards 78 RPM and it might give you an idea"...



THE TREATMENT REVEAL NEW SINGLE AND VIDEO 'RUNNING WITH THE DOGS'

A major run of dates for June has also been confirmed...



THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT SUPPORT THE ROLLING STONES

A chance to see the UK's finest new blues band on tour with the veterans in Europe...



ARCH ENEMY PRESENT 'YOU WILL KNOW MY NAME' VIDEO

Check out the next track from the upcoming album 'War Eternal'...



SWEDEN'S CRUCIFIED BARBARA RELEASES 'TO KILL A MAN' VIDEO

"From anger, we create music. A really heart song in every sense"...



SUICIDE SILENCE POST TRAILER OF BONUS 'YOU CAN'T STOP ME' DVD

The album marks the debut of new vocalist Eddie Hermida and is their first full-length recording since the tragic loss of singer Mitzy Lucker...



ATTICA RAGE PART WAYS WITH BASSIST COLIN WILSON AND ANNOUNCE REPLACEMENT

A new chapter begins for the Glasgow heavy rockers...



ENTER SHIKARI RELEASE STUDIO VIDEO

An advance look at the process of recording...