

Rockers

25th Anniversary Edition

Blue Sun Film Company



Rockers opens with our hero, reggae drummer Horsemouth, trying to buy a motorcycle so he can sell records around Jamaica. When his bike is jacked from a party by the mafia, he decides to retaliate and take back what belongs to him. He and an alarmingly calm gang of Rastafarians raid mafia big-wig Honibal's home and warehouse and leave the goods for local folk, officially making Horsemouth the coolest Robin-Hood figure in the history of film.

But while the plot line is less than impressive in its scope, and mostly revolves around the stolen bike, the film is so visually and musically appealing that the lack of an interesting or unique plot hardly matters. Now in its 25th anniversary release, *Rockers* is shot in the beautiful, muted primary colors reminiscent of a 70s Polaroid, so that many scenes become as balanced and lovely as the most well-done abstract painting. But the highlight of the movie is, of course, the music, which ranges from recorded tracks by Lee Perry, Jacob Miller and Inner Circle, and Peter Tosh, to live performances, to vocals recorded against the crashing of waves.

Behind all the ambling and smiling of the film is also a hint of the unrest in Jamaica in the 70s. We see the huge disparity between the wealthy and the poor, we see discrimination against Horsemouth and his friends as 'dreadlocks,' and we hear Horsemouth say that above all else he must give his 'youth,' his children, culture before money. Even with its comical plot and a seeming lack of seriousness, *Rockers* is a film more layered than it appears.

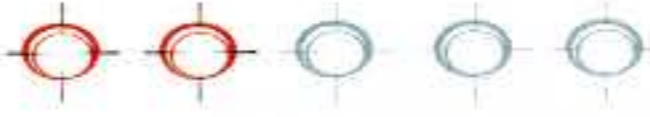
- Celena Carr



Most Precious Blood

Quiet

Trust Kill Records
www.mostpreciousblood.com



As far as death speed metal goes, there's no shortage of noise. And while not all is the same, Most Precious Blood's latest release, *Merciless*, pretty much does nothing more than make a big racket.

Beginning with "Shark Ethic," the album goes for the jugular immediately. And although the take-no-prisoners attitude does work to some degree on the whole, the concept gets lost a bit in the midst of unending screeching on the part of lead vocalist Rob Fusco.

Another problem with the work is the lack of differentiation among tracks. While Blood's musical attributes are clearly evident, the album does nothing to illustrate those ample talents. Most of the cuts, and not in a good way, seem to blend together in a bizarre concept-work way.

And while most of the songs get weighted down with screaming, some show their colors. "Oxygen Debt" has an interesting take on air deprivation and a unique intro that has a man detailing a story of a greedy dog who loses his bones... or something to that affect.

Towards the end of the work, "Narcoleptic Sleepwalker" will do nothing to help anyone catch some shuteye. The most diverse work on "Merciless," the cut builds quickly and delivers a punch that's reminiscent of the rest of songs.

While Most Precious Blood delivers "Merciless" in a package wrapped in barbed wire, the boys would be better served to try their hand with a different sound... or two.

- Jeff O'Neill

