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The Dwarves - 'Born Again' (MVD Visual)

CD Reviews
Written by Darrel Sutton
Monday, 09 May 2011 05:00

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God, where do you start with a Dwarves album of this calibre? Since I first pressed play on 'Born Again' a few weeks ago, the entire album has been pretty much hardwired into my psyche ever since. You see, I think all the drugs the Dwarves have ingested over the years have finally made them into a drug in their own right. How the hell else can you explain a collection of eighteen songs of utter musical mayhem, that's so addictive you'd sell your own wife's butt plug for another fix?

From the tongue-in-cheek opening lament of 'The Dwarves Are Still The Best Band Ever' (which quickly gives way to the new mantra for the disenfranchised of "Let's get high and fuck some sluts") through to the final sprint of 'The Band That Wouldn't Die' it's a quite brilliant mix of breakneck punk rock, pop sensibilities a Simon Cowell-manufactured fuckwit would kill for, great songs and the kind of lyrical genius that both appals and enthrals in equal measure.

Having apparently enlisted the help of every band member past and present in some capacity on this album, and being something of a 25th anniversary (or 27th depending on which calendar you use) album, the quality just oozes from every pore of the record like the cold sweat at the end of a week awake. There's things here that will appeal to so many, whether it's the fast-paced menace of 'Stop Me' (which got a rather tasty viral makeover on Youtube a while back courtesy of some 'A Serbian Film' clips), the insanely catchy 'Looking Out For Number One' or 'I Masturbate Me' (who would have thought that THE best lone pastime could become such a great song?) or the cartoon strip shtick of 'Zip Zero'. Every one of them is a bonafide classic and I guarantee you that you will have at least five of the songs on here on constant rotation in your head, once you've heard the record.

With so much music unable to function without having a pigeonhole to fit into, The Dwarves exist as the most refreshing enigma known to man. They might get labelled as a punk band (which they warrant purely for their unrepentant fuck-you attitude alone before they play a single note) but music of this calibre transcends mere genre definition. I mean anyone who can write the brilliantly catchy 'Your Girl's Mom' and accompany it's music with tales of extreme debauchery concerning said Mom is a genius who transcends categorisation, and probably warrants an FBI file as thick as a dictionary.

If you've ever had the pleasure of The Dwarves the best point of reference is probably to take the old school bluster of 'Free Cocaine' and 'Blood, Guts And Pussy', the songwriting nous of '...Young and Good Looking' and the catchiness of a song like 'Salt Lake City', crank it all up a few notches and wank over it. Debauched perfection. If you're new to The Dwarves and feel a little tentative, then much like a debutante at a swingers party, just get your kit off and jump right in. You'll feel violated but ultimately satisfied, in the nicest way possible. What more could you want from Blag and the boys?

If there's a record to beat this for Album Of The Year, the band that's going to make it doesn't exist at the moment. In other words, this is it, the big dog's fucking kahunas!

As a footnote I've not been able to find this album available on any UK music website to buy physically so, if like me you hate the digital generation, head over to the Dwarves website on the link below and pick up your copy of 'Born Again' with a Free DVD...CHAMPION STUFF.

http://www.theconnexion.com/thedwarves/thedwarves_cat.cfm?CatID=347

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6/8/2011

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