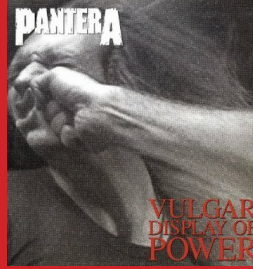


Pantera

Vulgar Display of Power 20th Anniversary Edition

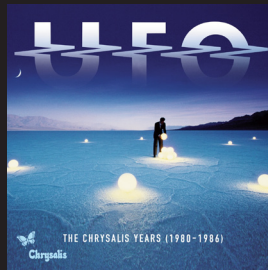
Pantera injected some serious groove into its metal machine with this release, its second for a major label. And even after two decades, the album sounds fresh, infusing bits of hardcore, thrash and Eddie Van Halen-esque licks into the mix. Standouts include "A New Level," "This Love" and the ever-ominous "Walk." This release features a second DVD disc of videos, plus a live show from Italy. (Rhino)



UFO

The Chrysalis Years (1980-1986)

Last year, EMI reissued the first half of UFO's catalog in a similar set (1973-1979). That set featured the band's main guitar player Michael Schenker, before he acrimoniously flew the coup. This new set chronicles the era where UFO would start to unravel, and thus is the weaker of the two. That's not to say there aren't moments of brilliance—the albums *No Place To Run* and *The Wild, The Willing and The Innocent* being prime examples. But with revolving-door lineup adjustments and changing trends, the band would lose focus and try too hard to keep up with the younger bands they'd influenced in first place. Either way, for fans of UFO (and it's a pretty safe bet most of the musicians we've covered today are), this set has loads of great bonus tracks, and is still a worthy addition. (EMI)



Saxon

Heavy Metal Thunder – Live

Saxon made a hefty racket at the dawn of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal, the scene that would directly influence Metallica, Exodus, et al. But, like many of their contemporaries, they got soft, attempting superstardom à la Def Leppard. In Saxon's case, the scheme failed miserably, and almost overshadowed early classics such as *Wheels of Steel* and *Power and the Glory*. Then, sometime during the past decade, the band found its flow once again and has gotten bigger in some parts than it was even back in the day. This 3-disc set is a compilation of the band's best live bits at the Wacken Open Air Festival in Germany. The sound quality is killer and vintage numbers like "The Eagle Has Landed" and "747" have a renewed sense of energy. (EMI/UDR)



Fastway

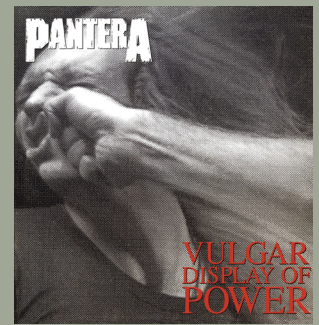
Eat Dog Eat

Fastway was originally meant to be an early '80s super-group collaboration of sorts between newly single Motörhead guitarist Fast Eddie Clarke and ex-UFO bass player and lunatic Pete Way...hence the name «Fastway.» In the end, Way would go on to form his own band Wavest (pun intended, I reckon), leaving Clarke to soldier on with an extraordinary young singer named Dave King (later of Celtic punks Flogging Molly). The combination worked a charm, and the band's bluesy, Zeppelin-esque debut was a standout release in 1983. Now, some 30 years later, the band is back, albeit with a different singer, Toby Jepson. While Fast Eddie has no shortage of chunky, dirty riffs, especially on the opener «Deliver Me,» some of the material is little more than neutered, commercial fare, akin to the quasi-blues, radio rock of Whitesnake clones during late 80s. (MVD)



PANTERA'S Phil Anselmo talks 20 years of Vulgar Display of Power

By Brett Mathews



So, 20 years later, *Vulgar Display Of Power* is still a major metal staple, and remains one of the most renowned albums of its genre. Every band loves what they are going in and recording as their 'new album', but did you have a feeling that what was being created might be a lot more special than the normal record?

I had no clue that any type of success would come out of *VDoP*... I'm the type to let folks decide for themselves... I'm not much for anticipation. It's getting the project out of the system that seems most important. There were proverbial moments of "magic," but I think every record has those... No, *VDoP* was a surprise... the success at least.

The bonus track on the 20th Anniversary re-issue- "Piss"- is amazing!! Was this just a matter of too many good songs that couldn't all fit on the record at the time of release, or had "Piss" fallen through the cracks some other way?

You're being too kind here... Amazing? (Laughs) Well... I guess that's why I'm not a music critic. Like I said, I'll leave the opinions to you. But all in all, after we'd recorded the entire *VDoP* album, and I'd listen as a whole, "Piss" just didn't fit in my book. But I'm glad you like it today, and thanks for the compliment!

How was it staring at these songs again with the re-mastering, and the footage from the bonus-DVD, with the mindset of this being a new creation / release again? Nostalgia? New takes with a broadened outlook through retrospect?

Any time I see some of the older Pantera footage I wanna cry... for joy most of the time, but there is always a part in my heart that misses those days terribly. We were a well-oiled machine that thrived off of our audience's energy, and I miss that blast of power!

It looks like your current band, Down, is working up new material for your Crossroads Café show. Are you guys working on a new album, and how far into are you if you are? The new Down EP is finished, recording-wise, mastered, and ready to go. I think mid-summer 2012 it will be ready for public consumption.

20 years later, summarize *Vulgar Display* in a sentence, and give it a rating out of 10.

Easy answer: "A new level of confidence and power".... and as far as rating it, I'd give it about an 8 or 9, probably just due to my performances. The rest of the band is a full-on 10.

