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REVIEWS

IGNITOR

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YFERE  
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IGNITOR  
Year of the Metal Tiger  
(MVD)



Gosh, it's like getting punched in the funny bone by Robocop, or stabbed with a fork by a fat hungry witch. The voice of Jason McMaster is like a drink of piss, an acquired taste to say the least. And yet it is so metal. In a very lame way, it reminds of Rob Halford's falsettos, except McMaster does not reach for the stars with his mouth open. Instead, he clenches his teeth and crunches his lyrics about metal, Ozzy and more metallic stuff than the whole of Hammerfall's discography put together. Even though I could not attest to that, since I have only heard like half a song from Hammerfall. I hear they suck. To put it bluntly, McMaster's throat has power but he could only survive in the metal realm, especially because he has this tendency to spew syllables in such a piercing pitch. Metalheads into the trad won't be surprised or put off, some in fact, may think his voice is about the most metal thing in the very metal year of 2012. The curious, the weak, the untrue, the posers may be turned off in about four seconds. So mission accomplished!

Then again, Ignitor are not for cherubs, or the uninitiated, Their ilk of classic heavy metal is as conservative as it comes and as pretentious as any band singing about beasts, holocaust and other shit of the ilk. Musically, Year of the Metal Tiger is quite tamed. Ferocious tiger and all on the cover, some of the tracks here fall a bit flat, dare we say, toothless? Which may just be what Ignitor desired if only just to follow on the so-so tradition of their previous three LP's.

Four albums deep in their career, Ignitor won't ignite a freaking match, but bands playing it like it's 1985 again are rarely in it for those reasons. Here there is more of a humble preoccupation with paying tribute and sounding old than with being influential and transcending generations. A fact that is confirmed on the track "Raiders From the Void", which starts with a chorus where you'll swear the Texans are screaming 'Rice-a-Roni', when in fact, the lyrics are far scarier, 'launch on warning'. Now, that's some Vanilla Ice wacky type o' shit.

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Written by Bobby Peru



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