

ALBUM REVIEWS



TSAVO INC. WHEN THE LIONS ARE HUNGRY

Tsavo Inc. are a Brazilian thrash band who were originally formed by guitarist Rinaldo Marcedo, formerly of Amion. The band also includes singer Cleiton Magno of the Brazilian thrash band Disaffection. Though it might sound trite to say, Tsavo's sound falls somewhere between the straight-forward Bay Area-style thrash of Disaffection and the modern neo-thrash metal of Amion. The songs never fall into the trap of all sounding the same. Many thrash bands are all about speed, or thrash-for-thrash sake. Tsavo Inc. incorporates plenty of traditional thrash metal riffing and speedy guitar licks, but also add progressive songwriting, occasional tribal beats, memorable hooks and some modern metal influences. If Disaffection were influenced primarily by the 1980's American thrash metal scene, Tsavo Inc. expands that with influences from the Teutonic thrash metal bands and even fellow Brazilian band Sepultura. Though the album could use some mastering, as some of the high-ends are a bit harsh, the overall recording is very well done. The CD release also includes bonus tracks from the band 2003 demo. [Metal for a Dark World] Scott Waters



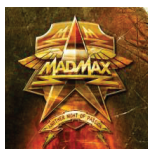
BIOGENESIS THE RISE, THE FALL, THE REBIRTH

Biogenesis are one of those bands that are hard to categorize, other than under the all-inclusive umbrella term "metal." Their sound is a mixture of power metal, progressive rock, modern groove metal and some thrash metal and gothic influences. Just about every song on *The Rise The Fall The Rebirth* has progressive tendencies, with clean guitars breaking way into heavy riffs, pounding drums melting into melodic passages and the vocals shifting from Chaz Bond's clean, David Bowie-esque singing to harsh, thrash metal aggression. I even hear a little melo-death mixed into songs like "Bleed Me." Despite the numerous influences and styles, the whole thing ties together quite well and is solid from beginning to end. [Soundmass] Scott Waters



BIOGENESIS THE RISE, THE FALL, THE REBIRTH

There has been an 11-year recording silence since their first album, and most know that singer Chad had joined Jacob's Dream during that time, but now he has resurrected BioGenesis for a new release. I can think of no better description of their style than what they proclaim as an "experimental hybrid metal ... (with) elements of melodic, thrash and prog metal." Production is noticeably better and a bit warmer this time around, making for a much smoother-sounding album in general. Melodic, often leaning towards symphonic metal, with bursts of old-school thrash throughout. Quite tasty! [Soundmass] Jeff McCormack



MAD MAX ANOTHER NIGHT OF PASSION

In 1987 the band released their fifth album, titled *Night of Passion*, which was supposed to be their breakthrough release in the U.S., but business issues prevented it from happening. Now, 2012 finds the original band back together and paying homage to that release (in title only) with *Another Night of Passion*. This is release number six from what I'd say is "phase two" for this '80s band, offering more of their brand of tight, riff driven, hook-filled melodic metallic hard rock. They do not break any new ground here, but when you have such quality music as they have been releasing since their 2006 comeback, who is complaining? Top notch production and musicianship as always, and while not overtly evangelical in their lyrical content, they present clean content with occasional spiritual references, giving great music to all listeners. [Steamhammer/SPV] Jeff McCormack



STRYPER ROCKIN' LAND: LIVE IN INDONESIA (DVD)

Wow! In comparison to previous Stryper live DVDs, this one blows others away. Shot in wide screen with a fairly high-definition picture (a slight pixel issue at times, but still awesome) and on a huge stage with multiple camera angles, this captures the magic of the boys on stage in front of a festival crowd in 2010. The bulk of the set is comprised of the classic '80s material with only one from each of their last few studio releases (*Against the Law*, *Reborn* and *Murder by Pride*). The mix is good and clean, and while I am still not used to seeing Robert set up facing the wrong way, other than that, this DVD is killer. [MVDVisual] Jeff McCormack



FROM THESE RUINS BROTHERHOOD

This Indiana five-piece thrash/nu-metal machine let their Christianity shine through with songs like "Crush the Devil" and they have the talent as is evident on this better-than-average produced six-song release. Vocal style has a ring of Demon Hunter influence for sure, while overall they have an expected combination of heavy screaming mixed with melodic vocals. I would have to say they sound at their best with the more aggressive singing, as I find the melodic vocals often sound "odd" ("Biblicon") and at times off-key ("2 Faced"). After repeated listens, I feel that once you get past these first two songs, the last four alone present the band sounding their best. Good stuff here, nonetheless, so check it out. [Independent] Jeff McCormack