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Online Resource for AOR, Melodic, Hard Rock, Heavy and Progressive Metal Music

by John Kindred



Comments: Zebra came to fruition in New Orleans during the mid 70s. Formed by Randy Jackson (vocals/guitar), Felix Hanemann (bass/keyboards) and Guy Gelso (drums) the trio built a cult following both in New Orleans and in New York and eventually garnered the attention of producer Jack Douglas. The band's debut album on Atlantic Records was the fastest selling record in the labels history. It shot up the Billboard chart to position #29 and produce two of the band's most loved songs "Tell Me What You Want" and "Who's Behind the Door?"

The instant success of the band quickly turned sour as their sophomore follow up album *No Tellin' Lies* didn't sell as successfully as their debut. Their third album 3.V held more of the original spark of their debut but by this time the band had fallen from the limelight. After releasing a fourth album with Atlantic, a

live record, the label dropped the band. Each band member went their own way until the trio joined Hanemann on his Rock Candy project and reignited the spark for Zebra to reform. In '97 Zebra began playing reunion shows and released Zebra IV in '03.

The bands first ever DVD release aptly titled Zebra The DVD was recorded live in '06 at House Of Blues in New Orleans and at The Downtown in Farmingdale, N.Y. Zebra performs 16 songs from the catalog of music including the classic "Tell Me What You Want" and "Who's Behind the Door?" The DVD is broken up with the band detailing their history in between the live video performances.

The in depth interviews digs deep into the bands origins and musical journeys. Diehard fans will enjoy the scope of the bands legacy. From a musical perspective the band demonstrates strong attributes but in the live setting Jackson's voice is strained, almost to a point of being comical when he sings in the higher registers of his vocal range. When he sings at the mid range level he sounds much better. The power trio approach works well for Zebra, the minimal instrumentation doesn't stop the band's live sound from filling up the room.

Overall the DVD provides great insight into the historical and musical aspects of the band. Zebra is a band whose appeal is held strictly in high regard by their most loyal of fans. As an outsider looking in, if you aren't immediately drawn into the band's sonic delivery then you will find little here to interest you.

Musicians: Randy Jackson (v)(g) Felix Hanemann (b)(k) Guy Gelso (d)

Track Listing: As I Said Before Wait Until The Summer's Gone Light Of My Love K.K. Is Hiding When You Get There The La La Song Bears But No More One More Chance Tell Me What You Want Arabian Nights My Life Has Changed No Tellin' Lies Who's Behind The Door Free Take Your Fingers From My Hair

Hardrock Haven rating: 6.3/10

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