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Rhino: Dead Throne Monarch

Publisher: **MVD Entertainment Group**

Metal music is interesting, because most of what people know about the genre either comes from one or two bands or from straight rumor and urban legend. Notable (to the general public at least) Metal bands include *Nine Inch Nails* in the '90s, *Twisted Sister* in the '80s, and *Judas Priest* or *KISS* in the '70s. The other 99% of Metal is shrouded in obscurity for the most part, and the style doesn't easily lend itself to crossing over or mixing with other genres. Notable exceptions would be attempts by *Rage Against the Machine* and *Ice-T* to fuse Hip-Hop and Metal. For the most part, Metal is a subgenre of Rock that doesn't see the light of day too often when it comes to radio play. **Rhino: Dead Throne Monarch**



represents an even more obscure facet of Metal: International interpretation of a r with deep roots in the U.K. and U.S.

Rhino is a band from Spain that has clearly worshipped at the dark feet of histor Metal acts. It's comforting to know that American and British teenagers aren't the c the planet determined to piss off their parents by rocking out to Black Metal... N parents can wring their hands over the demise of Spanish youth, to the sound o Spanish Metal band. There are many variations on Black Metal, and **Dead Thron** can't seem to make up its mind on where it falls. There are some serious throwba the record, reminiscent of '80s bands like *Ratt* and *Poison* that drew heavily on shc distorted guitar-driven anthems, interspersed with steel-string ballads.

The confusion comes in when one listens to songs like "Pale Horses Coming" or " Black Sheep," where **Rhino** is trying to channel *Pantera* and become a broodi darkness, befitting lead singer Javier Galvez's grating, baritone-rumble, vocal style. be great if it worked (what fan wouldn't be happy to see a new *Pantera* record?), just doesn't have the technical chops to pull off anything that virtuosic. On the co *Nine Inch Nails*, **Dead Throne Monarch** features some good production that hol you dial the volume to speaker-busting heights, but everything sounds dull compared to Reznor's crisp, biting, studio production. This record sounds | engineered too much toward the low end of the spectrum.

Fundamentally, this is amateur work. There's great homage here, but Metalhea discerning. Contrary to public perception (informed by radio and Top 40 lists), M worldwide is incredibly strong, buoyed by independent distribution and hard-worl bands. **Rhino** may end up being a big splash on the Continent, but the U.S. and U will likely judge **Dead Throne Monarch** as a derivative and diluted homily to band: but not forgotten. I plunked in my copy of *Pantera's* 1994 album "Far Beyond D spending some time with **Dead Throne Monarch**, and immediately felt my teeth hair standing up on the back of my neck. **Rhino** isn't bad, but it completely fails visceral test, which is the ultimate measure of any serious Metal band.

-Fridtjof, GameVortex Communications AKA M