

ROTTING CHRIST

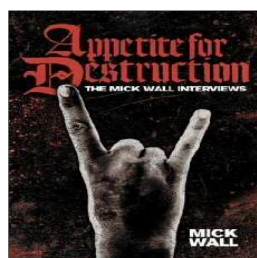
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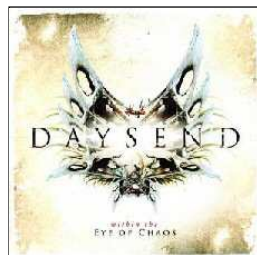
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Rhino - Dead Throne Monarch



Nasty, gnarly Stoner Rock

Another Stoner album that sounds pretty similar to the last stoner album I listened to. Rhino have a slightly nastier, noisier edge to them, however, and several of their songs stretch out to epic lengths, with the most extreme example being the interminable 'Funebre' clocking in at a ridiculous 15 minutes. I can also detect quite a strong Alice in Chains influence in the grooves of this album (check out the vocal harmonies in 'Promise of Storm', for example), and these things serve to set them apart from the soundalike pack ever so slightly (or as much as is possible with stoner Rock anyway, which isn't much). As does the almost shocking presence of a wild sax solo during the aforementioned Promise of Storm!



Spain certainly isn't well known for it's Rock music prowess, let alone for such a marginalised sub genre as stoner, so definite kudos to them for breaking out from the land of bullfighting, soccer and olive oil and showing their wares to the world. And singer Javier Galvez has an amazing set of pipes on him, and sings really well when he actually chooses to do so, in amongst all the deep throated bellowing. Check out acoustic ballad 'Wendigo' to experience this. Elsewhere he sounds truly pained.

Stoner Rock albums can be hard to get through at the best of times, but Rhino have a real sense of grind to them, and at over 70 minutes, Dead Throne Monarch is a truly harrowing experience. By the time you reach the final strains of album closer 'Horned Crown', noise fatigue has well and truly set in and you feel a little emotionally depressed. Easy listening music this is not.

Many people still obviously dig this kind of stuff, however, and if you like your Stoner with a touch brutality, this album is an absolute powerhouse. Just not be played at your next romantic interlude...

(Arctic Music Group/7th Gate Records)

Added: March 2nd 2010

Reviewer: [Rod Whitfield](#)

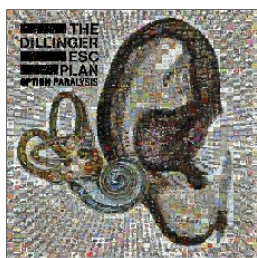
Score: ★★★★★☆☆☆☆

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