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RHINO BUCKET -

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RHINO BUCKET – AND THEN IT GOT UGLY – ACETATE 70/100

Rhino Bucket is back after a 12-year hiatus and, to be certain, the boogie rockers haven't been sitting around twiddling their thumbs or listening to grunge. By the sounds of it, the Los Angeles four have been writing a few gems (still) very much reminiscent of Bon Scott era AC/DC. Then there is former drummer Jason Liam who now is back as Jackie Enx and wears a mean mini skirt to boot!

A buyer's impression of And Then It Got Ugly is that the cover – a flawless woman amidst chaos – is reminiscent of Rush's Permanent Waves. Intentional or not, the music couldn't be the further from the Canadians' complex progressive music. Rhino Bucket is still a heads-down, frolicking boogie bash. Guitars, swinging vocals, shrieking rasps and groovy rhythms give the listener the best AC/DC fix this side of Dirty Deeds Done Cheap. And watch for them deceptively unruly lyrics with a hint of anger at an unnamed 'she' and a dose or two of Jesus-deflection too! The album ends with a touch of Led Zeppelin called I Was Told. In the absence of Jackyl, Rhino Bucket is a man's best AC/DC fill 'er upper. – Ali "The Metallian"

RHINO BUCKET – THE HARDEST TOWN – ACETATE 80/100

I'll be honest. Following the first three or four listens to The Hardest Town the new album by Los Angeles-based Rhino Bucket had less than a favourable impression on me. The album is short on up-tempo and upbeat songs. It all seemed – please read that last word again – bland, monotone and deadly mid-paced. Another three or four spins and The Hardest Town is a knockout. Seriously.

Odd, how a girl's perceptions of an album transform with later listens. No more solely relying on the good looks and long manes of the members (Brian Forsythe is especially delicious) because The Hardest Town has everything any fan of bluesy hard rock boogie needs. This is a kick ass album. The first several songs are rock-solid and dependable cuts, but then comes No One Here and kicks. The lyrics are a real hoot. The song also hits a few of the same chords as Shadowy Men On A Shadowy Planet's Having An Average Weekend. Street To Street is sound, exciting and up-tempo. She's With Me is the contagious refrain on this album. This one is surely one of the better songs with such a solid rhythm section and a solo and a real surprise that it occupies position number eight. Clearly, my favourites are not the band's. You're Gone is in position number nine and again another of those better songs.

Georg Dolivo does his best Bon Scott impression throughout own to a 't' and stamps so much personality that there is little to be criticized. The lyrics are fun and interesting and written with a genuine sardonic intelligence. The strings are properly calibrated to deliver the right vibes and, of course, with Simon Wright on drums Rhino Bucket has a piece of AC/DC onboard.

There is absolutely no reason to not get this album if one has long hair, a beer in the hand and a love for AC/DC-style boogie. – Sheila Wes Det