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ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE - Sept / Oct 2010

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Features for this issue

[Rock N Roll Experience's EXCLUSIVE interview with The Queen Killing Kings from 10/10/10](#)

[Rock N Roll Experience's EXCLUSIVE interview with Dave Lombardo from SLAYER as well as a review of the Megadeth / Slayer / Anthrax 10/6/10 show!](#)

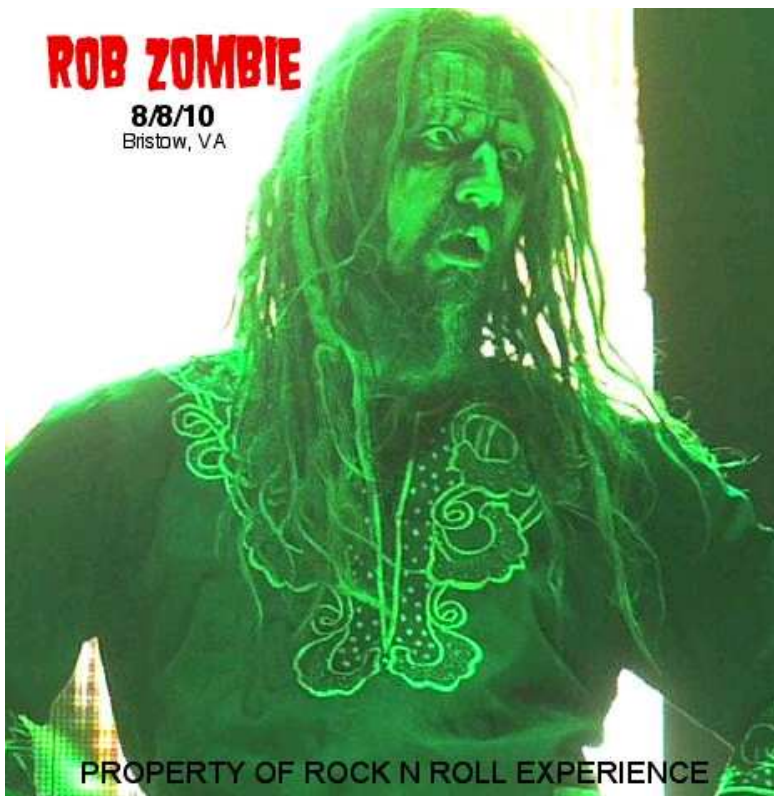
[Rock N Roll Experience's EXCLUSIVE interview with STYX!](#)

[Review of the 9/20/10 Train Wreck show & an interview with Kyle Gass from Tenacious D!](#)

[Review of the 9/12/10 TOADIES show!](#)

[Review of the 8/31/10 Burn Halo / Tantric / Adema show & the 9/1/10 Bret Michaels](#)

ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE!



Welcome To The September / October 2010 edition of Rock N Roll Experience

As I stated last month, we own www.rocknrollexperience.com now, so that is the URL you can use to check out everything Rock N Roll Experience

[show!](#)**related..use it!!**[Review of the
8/27/10
Apocalyptica /
Dir En Grey
show!](#)

Incase anyone is wondering why we did not review the Uproar tour you can place blame on one particular band & their "people" who decided to screw with Rock N Roll Experience.

My feeling on the matter is this; if any situation starts to get too sticky or too complicated then I say screw it!

[Review of the
8/24/10
Saving Abel /
American
Bang / Forgive
The Fallen /
Taddy Porter
show!](#)

There was one particular band on the Uproar Tour that has a publicist who doesn't like us, so in the interest of what's best for Rock N Roll Experience, I decided to NOT have anything to do with people who treat Rock N Roll Experience bad & therefore that tour was panned over!

I realize part of it might have to do with a negative light we shed on a particular act on the bill, BUT, if telling the truth is a crime then so be it, but I won't sugar coat things & the irony is that something really bad DID happen to that band & the behavior they displayed at their Baltimore tour date was a prime example of why that "bad" thing happened...next subject, please!

[Review of the
8/23/10
Devildriver /
Kataklysm
show!](#)

The most interesting concert bill of 2010 award has to go to the Dir En Grey / Apocalyptica tour & we have a nice feature on the Baltimore tour stop in this issue.

[Review of the
8/20/10
Bobaflex show
& 8/21/10
KISS show](#)

As I look at the concert calendar for the remainder of the year I see that we have some interesting crap coming up, there's some cool interviews in the works, some cool tour coverage is all lined up & I refuse to tell you guys what we have slated for the future, BUT, what I can say is that there's some big things coming in the not so distant future!

[Review of the
8/13/10 Death
Angel /
Soilwork](#)

Slash & his wife have filed for divorce....it's sad because they have 2 small children together, BUT, I always thought his wife was sticking her nose in his career just a bit too much, no one cared to hear her talk or even see her face, we ONLY wanted to hear Slash talk...I'm assuming she'll write a tell all book in the not so distant future, BUT, with her being a former call-girl I'll assume her stories before she met Slash will be better than the Slash parts.

[Review of the
8/8/10
Mayhem Fest
featuring Rob
Zombie, Lamb
of God, In
This Moment
& an interview
with
Wednesday
13!](#)

As always, if you're an unsigned band & want us to review your music, contact us, send us your stuff, we cover ALL bands signed & unsigned alike!

I'm not going to waste anymore of your time with my babbling...thx as always for checking out the site, support the music you love, see the bands you like when they play your area & thx so much for supporting Rock N Roll Experience

[Review of the
Lords of Acid /
Thrill Kill Kult /
Dead Weather
shows on
8/2/10
\(Warning:
ADULT
Content!\)](#)

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[Review of the
Carnival of
Madness
7/28/10 show
featuring
Shinedown &
Chevelle!!](#)[Review of the
Fear Factory
7/26/10 show!](#)

[Review of the
Adler's
Appetite
7/23/10 show
with an Alex
Grossi
interview!](#)

REVIEWS



Before you begin reading these reviews, we have a rating system to tell you just how good or bad a CD is & here's the breakdown on how it works:

1 Star - You'd rather vomit than own this music!

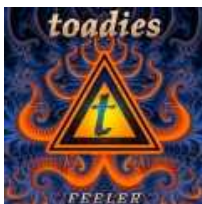
2 Stars - This is a cd you don't want your friends to know you have

3 Stars - It's okay

4 Stars - This is a good one, it lacks a little something, but it's a keeper

5 Stars - You should consider buying this...it's a good one!

6 Stars - Do what you have to do by any means to get this disc, it's a MUST HAVE!!



THE TOADIES

Feeler

Track Listing: Trust Game, Waterfall, Dead Boy, City of Hate, Mine, Suck Magic, ATF Theme, Joey Let's Go, Pink

Rating: 4 stars!

Let me preamble this review by stating that I'm a big fan of The Toadies & I felt like their last record, "No Deliverance" was one of the best rock records released in 2008, but with the bands latest release, "Feeler", the overall package isn't as amazing as I'd hoped for.

"Trust Game" kicks the cd off on a somber note & the chords are vaguely interesting because it's not a standard riff but the song itself is nothing memorable & that's what seems to be the common theme with most tracks on this record.

For those who might not know it, this is the record that The Toadies recorded immediately after "Rubberneck" & this is the record that Interscope shelved because they said it wasn't good enough. There's a few added gems on this record or atleast that's what the bio says & "Waterfall" is not a horrible song for what it is, it's just very forgettable. "Dead Boy" starts off like a Nirvana song & it's one of the better songs on the cd because it's got a solid pace, it flows well & it's part indie/part rock/part metal with a very direct, in your face attitude that screams

The Toadies!

"City of Hate" sounds like a left over from the "Rubberneck" era & what I mean is that it's not a horrible song...it's actually quite enjoyable, but there's no hits on this record.

"ATF Theme" is a 2+ minute instrumental & it's interesting to note that the best songs are the last 2 songs on the disc because "Joey Let's Go" has an overly simple chorus that's got the same progression many pop songs have that make it a memorable track. "Pink" reminds me a bit of the Foo Fighters & it's a simple song that really does close this record out right!

The tragedy that is "Feeler" is that the band really believed in this disc, they poured their heart into this record & I can't condemn the band for wanting to nurture a record they believed in, BUT, Interscope was 100% correct & I understand why this record was shelved...it's not horrible nor is it great; it's just a collection of songs that are so/so & for The Toadies that's ashame.



UPON INFLECTION

Inhuman In Human

Track Listing: Blackout, Morbid Obsession, The Disease of Religion, Eternal Nightmare, Centuries of Hate, Immortally Unleashed, Inhuman, Intelligence is Blasphemy, Dark Path

Rating: 5 stars!

Featuring former Malevolent Creation members Gus Rios on drums & Kyle Symons on vocals, Upon Infliction are a killer death metal band that gives the entire genre a much needed kick in the head...this is the most exciting & interesting death metal record to come out in some time.

It's understandable that the cookie monster vocals are not for everyone, BUT, this band is one of the few bands out there that truly captures the essence of Slayer musically with the vocals of Napalm Death.

From start to finish you get a brutally heavy record here & the last song, "Dark Path" is a 6+ minute instrumental that's got some interesting riffs coupled with solid rhythm & shred guitar solos!

As a complete work, this is the best death metal record for 2010 as far as I'm concerned, it's got a good thick rhythm, the guitar tone is thick but with enough treble so that it can split ear drums & the vocals are deep growls that would make Cookie Monster proud!



FILTER

The Trouble With Angels

Track Listing: The Inevitable Relapse, Drug Boy, Absentee Father, No Love, No Re-Entry, Down With Me, Catch a Falling Knife, The Trouble With Angels, Clouds, Fades Like a Photograph (Dead Angel)

Rating: 6 stars!

When I opened this cd I was instantly intrigued with the packaging & I could tell from first glance that it was not a standard digipack but I had no clue what it was till I opened it & upon taking the plastic wrap off the case & sliding the book case sleeve off you immediately recognize that the inside artwork is a pop-up picture & the art ties in with the songs & the theme of Angels...it's the coolest packaging I've seen in a long time & it's why it will be such a let down when physical cds finally cease to be made!

"The Inevitable Relapse" has a pitch corrector sounding effect on the vocals & musically it's more industrial than some of the more recent Filter material. "Drug Boy" is a hard rocker that should be an instant mosh pit favorite!

"Absentee Father" rocks hard too with a chorus that's slightly mellower than the bulk of the songs main tone.

Lyrically, I think this is Richard Patrick's best work ever..."Fades Like a Photograph" has some of the most touching lyrics I've ever read & that also is true for every song on this cd for the most part...Richard writes from the heart & it shows!

"No Love" starts off with a driving pummel but as fast as it kicks you in the teeth it also turns around & gets kinda mellow so this song has a cool mix of melodic vibe coupled with a metal theme.

"No Re-Entry" is a slow song & could easily be a radio single if it gets released as such.

"Catch a Falling Knife" has a VERY similar chorus, musically, to P.O.D.'s "Alive" & I mean VERY similar!

"Fades Like a Photograph" is a slow & touching number that closes off the cd & it leaves the record on a dark note, a sad note & it's not necessarily the song I would have closed with, but it's one emotion-driven song for sure!



ELECTRIC SIX

Zodiac

Track Listing: After Hours, American Cheese, Clusterfuck!, Countdown to the Countdown, Doom and Gloom and Doom and Gloom, Jam It The Hole, I Am A Song!, It Aint Punk Rock, Love Song For Myself, The Rubberband Man, Table and Chairs, Talking Turkey

Rating: 5.6 stars!

Love or Hate 'em, The Electric Six are one of the most amusing & entertaining acts in music today! "After Hours" is the first track on the bands new Zodiac record & I swear to God it's weird that the piano part in this song is almost identical to a song a local band here in Maryland wrote..it's crazy!

"American Cheese" reminds me of a song that Turbonegro would do lyrically, it's goofy as shit & has an interesting Motown element to it, while "Clusterfuck!" starts off with a rock sounding guitar noise that's fast to fade into a dance sounding pop song.

"Countdown.." is a rocker with a stoner rock vibe to it & it's probably my favorite song because it's a rocker but it also has a trippy breakdown that's solid & art driven.

"Jam It The Hole" has a funky bass line & a disco styled keyboard/synth element that makes the song an instant dance classic!

"I Am A Song!" is Neil Diamond influenced, or so the band states it is & it's a mellow guitar driven song.

"Love Song For Myself" is really odd & far beyond funky yet it's got a modern approach to some degree.

"The Rubberband Man" is a cover & they do it justice.

Supposedly the theme to this record is that it's got 12 songs, there's a Zodiac theme going on, but I really get more of a disco theme at times than anything else...it's what you'd expect from The Electric Six with some added musical growth...this is the bands 7th full length record & it's classic Electric Six from start to finish!



COMBICHRIST
Making Monsters

Track Listing: Declaration, Follow The Trail of Blood, Never Surrender, Throat Full of Glass,

**Fuckmachine, Forgotten, Just Like Me, Slave To Machine, Through These Eyes of Pain,
Monster:Murder:Kill, They, Reclamation**

Rating: 6 stars!

Industrial music done to perfection...that's how I'd describe the new Combichrist record!

"Declamation" is an instrumental track that starts the disc off & it's followed up by "Follow The Trail of Blood" which features Brandon Schiepatti from Bleeding Through on vocals. "Follow.." is a dark, angry electro convulsion of energy & damaged emotions, while "Never Surrender" is almost like poetry mixed with dance music!

"Throat Full of Glass" is actually a catchy song & could easily be a radio single if it was released as such.

Musically speaking, this is a dark adventure that dwells on the darkest elements to give power & pissed off aggression to it's fervor and frenzy.

Part dance music, part metal, ALL dark, Combichrist's new record journey's to the darkest parts of the mind & delivers a great industrial shock rock presentation.



DRUGSTORE FANATICS

What's Born in the Basement

Track Listing: Hangman, Lonely Winter, The Boy, You Got The Ball, Ever Since, Shifter, The Distance, Bullet, Pace Protection, The Bear Match

Rating: 5 stars!

I was given this cd directly by 2 of the members of this band...it's an interesting story how they gave it to me & it goes like this: I was covering the Adler's Appetite show in Baltimore & I was a guest of Alex Grossi, Aviv, drummer for Drugstore Fanatics was a roadie for the band & he asked me if I was working media & when I said yes he told me about his band, Drugstore Fanatics, which features Koichi Fukuda of Static X.

I was asked if I'd like a copy of the bands cd for possible review & I said sure. We chatted a few more minutes about Drugstore Fanatics & then Alex Grossi came over & said to Aviv, "Jesus, you're my roadie & you're here pushing your band?" & Aviv went to work setting up Adler's Appetite's gear.

I couldn't help but laugh at that story just a little because Aviv had enough time to hype his band to me & slip me a cd.

The music on this cd is part A Perfect Circle, part Stone Sour. There's no actual writing credits on a song for song basis so I can't tell how much input Koichi has on each song, but it's all fairly dark, introspective, & there's a solid bass line that flows through each song & really makes each song solid.

This is not a band that's strictly flash & fury...this band is about emotions, the depths of falling down & what I will joke about is the fact that the cd title is spelled wrong on the inside of the cd jacket...it reads, "What's Born in the Bacement"!

Most of the music is mid tempo or slow in parts & I dig this disc for both the music & the vibe the band creates!

[ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE HOME PAGE.](#)



REVIEWS



JANA PERI**Ballerina Of The Bowery (single)**

Track Listing: "Ballerina of the Bowery"

Rating: 4 stars!

Creatively speaking, the music of "Ballerina..." is a tribute to "Bo Diddley" by Mr. Bo Diddley, although the vocals & lyrics are new, musically, the song is an ode to the past, a tribute to the blues with a bit o' swing & the song was written & produced by Mr. Gar Francis who's got a solid rep as a good song writer/producer/player.

This single is a decent product, like I said, it's an ode to the blues, the vocals sound decent & that's pretty much all I can say about it.

**BLACK LABEL SOCIETY****Order of the Black**

Track Listing: Crazy Horse, Overlord, Parade of the Dead, Darkest Days, Black Sunday, Southern Dissolution, Time Waits for No One, Godspeed Hellbound, War of Heaven, Shallow Grave, Chupacabra, Riders of the Damned, January

Rating: 6 stars!

Let me start of by explaining why I gave this record 6 stars; the last Black Label Society record, "Shot to Hell" sounded like it was rushed, there was nothing memorable on it & the overall product was bland. This record, on the other hand, is Zakk Wyld doing what he does best...rockin', rollin', jammin' & there's heavy shit, mellow stuff & for the most part this is a well

written record as far as what you'd expect from BLS!

"Crazy Horse" starts the disc off on a heavy note & "Overlord" sounds like it could have been used as an Ozzy song in all honesty!

"Parade of the Dead" is the first single off the disc & it kills!

"Darkest Days" is a touching piano based ballad & the guitar solo in the beginning of "Southern Dissolution" is pure Zakk Wylde frenzy!

"Time Waits for No One" is actually my favorite song & it kinda reminds me of older David Bowie, Elton John & even "I'm so Tired" by Ozzy..."Time Waits.." is hands down the best song on this cd & it's a mellow song that has serious cross over potential if it gets the right exposure.

"Chupacabra" is a crazy acoustic instrumental that's under a minute in length & adds a little variety musically to this disc.

"January" closes the cd out on a sober & mellow note. I'd say hands down, this is a solid Zakk Wylde release & much better than his last studio record!



BUG GIRL
Dirt In The Skirt

Track Listing: Spread That Eagle, Dirt In The Skirt, Faster & Faster, Hungry As Hell, Wasteland, Shain' Up saturday, Master of Disaster, Fat & Greasy, Rock N Roll Ain't A Crime, Rock Your City

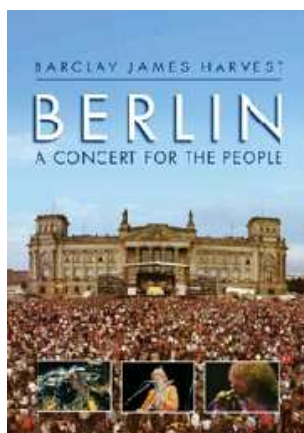
Rating: 6 stars!

Bug Girl is essentially a mix of Nashville Pussy meets The White Stripes & what I mean by that is, Bug Girl is a husband & wife duo, Amber & Clinton Spence, Amber plays guitar & sings while Spence plays drums & does backing vocals...they play gritty rock n roll ala Nashville Pussy & much like Nashville Pussy the core of the band are married, yet the band is ONLY 2 members ala The White Stripes & on that same note Jack & Meg White from The White Stripes used to be married as well, so Bug Girl share that band with both Nashville Pussy & The White Stripes.

For a band that only has 2 members, Bug Girl make alot o' noise & it's loud, aggressive, dirty rock n roll that's rooted heavily in straight up rock n roll! Amber adds a sexy/sleazy element to the music while Clinton keeps the music anchored with his solid time keeping on the drums!

If The Rolling Stones had came out in the midst of the 80's glam scene, this is the best way I'd describe Bug Girls sound...it's simple rock n roll, nothing overly complicated, just ballsy rock music that you might hear in any biker bar across the US.

There's a song on this cd that best describes the bands sound..."Fat & Greasy"!



BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST
Berlin: A Concert For The People DVD

Track Listing:

Rating: 5 stars!

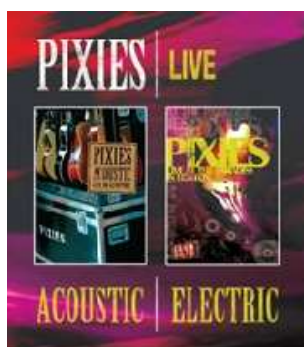
The first thing I notices as I began to review this dvd was the quality...it was filmed in the early 80's & camera quality was very different than it is today, but you know what, I can appreciate the warm quality the camera's had back then!

"Berlin..." is a cool concert video of Barclay James Harvest & the show itself was a HUGE concert where around 250,000 people showed up to see this concert, so it's probably the highlight in terms of attendance records for Barclay James!

I never had the chance to see a live show from this band, but this dvd displays how solid they were as players, they remind me alot of YES, they have a bit of a progressive style mixed with classic rock. "Mockingbird" is my personal favorite off this dvd & mixed in with every song are film clips that accompany each song pretty well.

There's a nice bonus section where you get to see 5 promo films that were made to support the bands "Time Honoured Ghosts" album.

I have no idea how large of a fanbase this band has/had in the USA, but overseas they were HUGE & this dvd documents that very well!



PIXIES
Acoustic / Electric - Blu Ray Disc

Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

This set was originally released as a 2 part video set, one was acoustic & one was electric & the band has re-packaged these dvd's as a joint set which is actually nice because not only can you get both home videos on the same disc, but you also get some cool bonus footage, but more on

that in a moment!

The Pixies were a modern rock phenom back in the day, but when the 90's came around the band decided to split & Frank Black went solo while Kim Deal went on the form The Breeders with her sister. The Pixies were a strong force on the modern rock scene, & when the band recorded the footage on this disc they were solid & strong!

The unplugged show was interesting because the band had never done an entire unplugged show up until that point & it proved that the band could tone it down & still shine!

The bonus footage on this part of the video is interesting because it shows the stuff no one else saw before the show!

The electric portion of the video is a full on live show that was done in a tiny intimate club situation & it shows the Pixie's rockin' hard! "Caribou" has always been one of my favorites as well as "Bone Machine". There's not one dud on this entire collection in all honesty!

I've always wondered if the band felt more comfortable with punk rock or indie rock & I say that because the bands ethics were always punk rock to me & even their sound was slightly rooted in punk as far as I was concerned, but Frank's musical direction led the band in a more alternative/indie direction than punk.

Regardless of how you want to label Pixies music, they rock & this new disc is a great collection of 2 different extremes...electric & acoustic! There's a complete bonus not included on any other video that's exclusive to this set & it's a vintage show from TT The Bear's, this is a REALLY old show too!



BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
The European Invasion Doom Troopin' Live - Blue Ray Disc
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

I truly believe that the era of Black Label Society's career in which this dvd was filmed is an absolute high point in the bands career & it has to do alot with the fact that the members of this

version of the band were all VERY solid players & the set list for this concert kicked serious ass!

"Stoned & Drunk" starts the show off & Zakk Wylde is just an amazingly distinctive guitarist in the heavy metal world, his pinch harmonic guitar squeals go on for days & his gritty vocals are equal parts Greg Allman meets Ozzy!

"Fire It Up" is probably my personal favorite of the Paris concert, it's just so groove-filled & crunchy, while "Suicide Messiah" gives Zakk a few moments where his voice is his only instrument of choice.

The "Iron Man" interlude is cool but the centerpiece of this show is probably "In This River" which is a song dedicated to Dimebag from Pantera.

The "Backstage Pass" documentary is cool & funny and shows some stuff that might or might not happen backstage regularly & the 4 music videos from this era of the bands career are included on this set as well!

There's a section filmed in London that's only 4 songs long but killer none the less.

This is a killer BLS video from start to finish & worth checking out!



MURDOCK'S Distortionist

Track Listing: UMG, Infinite Pansy, Bloodsicle, Spirit of '95, Tongues, Die Together, Playhouse Down, Maiden in the Mirror, Black Jesus Knocking, Danger Goat, Lords, Sleepy Queen: Charlie Brown, Where Are You Now?, Aborted Baby Summers, Widower

Rating: 6 stars!

Murdocks mix metal aggression with Pop overtones and Punk melody to create a unique mix of music that's rock in it's purest form; distorted guitar, bass & drums played at 10 with a true discontent for all things that plague American culture.

What it's like to grow up in America, all the trials, tribulations & the good and the bad, it's all summed up pretty damn well on this cd! "UMG" is track #1 on the disc & it's a power pop punk rock nitro burst of energy & apathy wrapped into a tight 2 minute package.

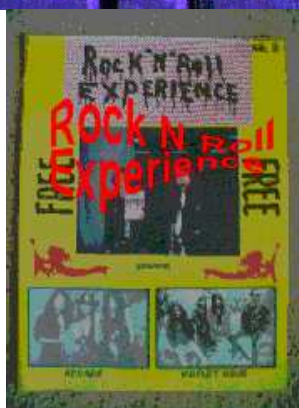
Most of the songs on this cd are under 3 minutes & in my mind, the first thing I thought as I listened to this cd was that this IS what I wish Greenday would be more like! What I mean by that comment is that Murdock's blend elements of all things rock, the main connecting bond is the energy & aggression, & there's no slow songs on this cd, it's all very direct, in your face, powerful tunes & the vocals have a proper mix of anger & pop fury that makes it memorable & at times fluffy.

"Danger Goat" is my personal favorite & it's got a kinda CLASH-like sound to it.

"Where Are You Now?" is an interestingly catchy track that's got a Warped Tour vibe to it & it's also the song that's probably the song that SHOULD be their single off this disc because it's a really addictive & fun song.

I get alot o' cd's to review on a weekly basis & few make an impact on me like the new Murdock's cd has...this one is a keeper, it's going to be a disc I jam to & for me to say that it means that the cd is pretty damn solid! The music is catchy, the band is good, they don't try to come off cocky or with that rockstar attitude, the band plays from the heart & this is definitely the defining cd for this band, this is one of the best rock records for 2010!

[ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE HOME PAGE.](#)



REVIEWS



RORY GALLAGHER

GHOST BLUES: The Story of Rory Gallagher & The Beat Club Sessions DVD

Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

I realize that the vast majority of the people reading this review might have been too young to appreciate the genius of Rory Gallagher & outside of hearing his records I never really saw the man play...I was too young to experience a Rory live show & this 2 dvd set captures the absolute essence of Rory Gallagher; this set is the perfect item to acquaint you with Mr. Rory Gallagher.

For ANY fans of blues rock, this is a must have set & the way it's set up is, disc #1 is a documentary on Rory's life, the story is told by Rory, his friends, family & peers and there's some amazing archival footage that explains the mans career pretty darn well!

Rory started out as a band guy, his music was based in both Irish folk music & American Blues; Rory was a true original who was never truly appreciated in the States as much as he was overseas.

Rory passed away at age 47 & the interesting thing I must note about Rory is that, atleast in the way the dvd explains it, Rory never married, never had a true love or serious girlfriend...Rory's ONLY true love was his music & sadly he developed a very heavy drinking problem which, coupled with his health problems, sadly caused his early demise.

The interviews with Edge from U2 are interesting in the fact that Edge called Rory a major influence & I think part of that had to do with the fact that Rory is the biggest Irish rock guitarist of all time, while there's a fun moment with Slash where he describes jamming onstage with Rory many years ago.

Rory basically said in one interview that when he jammed with Albert King it was an unpleasurable experience & disc #1's a great reference point if you always wanted to know about Rory Gallagher...it sums up the mans life from point A to point B.

Disc #2 is a 16 track live blur of clips from The Beat Club from 1971 - 1972. "Laundromat" is a killer jam & the songs on disc #2 are a mix of blues, irish folk, there's some full on band jams, some mellow Rory solo moments & as a fan of blues rock I was really impressed with Rory's cover of the Freddie King classic "Toredown" & the ending number, "Messin' with the Kid" which is also a cover that Johnny Winter made famous.

Disc #1 & Disc #2 really are must see discs for ALL blues rock enthusiasts...Rory was one part Jimmy Page, two parts Robert Johnson...he was an Irish original & this set is a great document to a gone but not forgotten blues master!

**RUSH****Classic Albums: 2112 / Moving Pictures - Blu Ray**

Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

The most addictive thing out there if you are a music fan is clearly the "classic albums" series

that Eagle Rock has been releasing for the past year or 2.

I will compare this series to VH-1's "Behind the Music" in that each show is based after one classic record & you get the most comprehensive breakdown of that record, complete with interviews from the band, the record producer, & just about anyone who was involved in the recording & writing process.

On this particular set we get to see & hear the breakdown of 2 classic Rush records, "2112" & "Moving Pictures".

"2112" was a risky record for Rush because they went into a seriously progressive mode, one entire album side was dedicated to ONE song. Seeing the band tell the stories that made up the recording sessions, a rough breakdown of what the song "2112" is about, Geddy Lee is such a music dork when he talks, yet he's the most dedicated person to his craft & the cool thing about this release is that there's nearly an hour of extra footage that was not used in the original broadcast of this program.

I love seeing the band set in front of the camera & play pieces of the classic songs from these 2 records just for "us", the viewer...there's a real personal element to this program & whether you are a Rush fan or not, if you are interested in how music is created this is a great video to watch, it explains what Rush do in the studio & what makes them so unique & original.

If you have a classic rock fan in the family, this is a kick ass X-mas gift idea!



EDISUN
s/t

Track Listing: Wide Awake, Hello, Too Pretty (Supertramp), Right Beside You, Medicate, Ready to Believe, Silence, Fly, To Die For, Voices, While The World's Asleep

Rating: 5 stars!

Delectably well written, catchy, pop driven rock with radio friendly appeal, Edisun are the bastard children of Three Doors Down & oh-so-many modern rock bands from the past decade.

"Medicate" is my personal favorite, it's got a good rock chug to the guitar parts & it's one of those songs that kinda reminds you of something you might have already heard, yet you still like it & bounce around while listening to it!

"Silence" is a sweet ballad, & the cover to this record vaguely reminds me of what Godsmack used to use as their logo...that tribal looking thing.

"Fly" is a beautifully written track that's got strong potential to be a hit with the right push.

This record closes out on a somber note with a track that's just under 2 minutes long called "While The World's Asleep" & overall this is a well written record from start to finish...the vocals sound good, the music is memorable & the band has a lot of potential!

**WE WISH YOU A METAL XMAS & A HEADBANGING NEW YEAR**

Re-issue w/ 4 new bonus tracks!

Track Listing:

Rating: 5 stars!

When December hits, atleast from my vantage point, I think of all things Christmas related.

You don't have to celebrate Xmas to know the songs of the season either...there's both traditional songs about the religious aspect of the holiday as well as goofy numbers about Santa Clause & an imaginary Snowman named Frosty!

What I'm getting at is, there was a record released a year ago called "We Wish You A Metal Xmas..." & with the holiday season fast approaching again the record has been re-released for 2010 & there's 4 new bonus cuts on this version!

"O' Christmas Tree" is sang by Doro Pesch & her vocals sound amazing! "Auld Lang Syne" performed by Girlschool is ok, it's kinda predictable & I think Doro's song blows it away personally!

"Frosty the Snowman" featuring Lips from Anvil on vocals & Bumblefoot's guitar shredding sounds killer, but the highlight of the "new" songs on the disc is easily the "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" track which features Dez from DevilDriver/Coal Chamber screaming his balls off on vocals! You've never heard a version of that song quite like this! Doug Aldrich's solo's sound great too!

To go back to the original tracks on the disc from the first pressing, the cd kicks off with a perfect intro of "We Wish you a Metal Xmas" & track #2 kicks in with a hard rock blues number featuring the most amazing rock band EVER with Lemmy, Dave Grohl & Billy Gibbons!

"Santa Claws Is.." featuring Alice Cooper on vocals & John 5 on guitar is a great cover with a classic Alice Cooper styled twist while "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" featuring Dio is honestly touching since we lost Ronnie last year.

Performances from Stephen Percy of Ratt fame, Chuck Billy from Testament growling out "Silent Night", etc., it's all here, & this is a fun listen for sure, it's a great take on crap loads o'

xmas favorites...who ever thought you could bang your head to old xmas songs?!



DISTURBED
Asylum

Track Listing: Remnants, Asylum, The Infection, Warrior, Another Way To Die, Never Again, The Animal, Crucified, Serpentine, My Child, Sacrifice, Innocence

Rating: 6 stars!

When an established band releases a new record it's nearly impossible for a listener to not have an expectation from said artist. When it comes to the new Disturbed release, "Asylum" I will admit I was blown away & it's because what I expected from Disturbed was nu-metal frolics & quirky songs about destruction with the trademarked Dave Draiman scold-a-vocal stylings....what I actually heard on the new Disturbed cd was a tad more melodic, a touch more unique, the opening track is an instrumental number that's got a Pantera-ish vibe to it & EVERY song on this cd is solid, strong, touching & remarkably well written!

I will go out on a limb here & say this is the best Disturbed record EVER & a song like "Warrior" shows growth in this band that started out more or less playing dumbed down metal riffs.

The hidden bonus track is what might surprise everyone & the track is a well known cover, it's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" by U2 & I will admit that the cover is damn good!

Overall this is a kick ass record, it's well written, the artwork is cool & classy, the record sounds great & this is an amazing rock record!



LIZARD SKYNARD
S/T

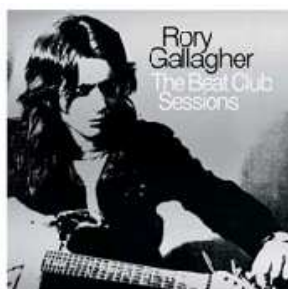
Track Listing: Criticism, Normal, Ocean Electric, Bird Robot, Space Eels, Bell & Syndrome, Fractal Love Song, Austin Slow Trip

Rating: 6 stars!

Erik Sprague is best known as the Lizard man, he's covered in tattoos from head to toe & the tattoo's are of lizard scales, he has a split fork tongue, medically inserted balls that raise the skin where his eye brows used to be & the man is a FREAK!

Lizard man has toured the world doing his freak show act & M.C.ing events, but now he has a band & it's called Lizard Skynard, YES, the band rips off the Lynyrd Skynyrd logo on the actual cd, but musically the band is very similar to Henry Rollins, Erik's vocals are mostly spoken word & each song is set up where Erik tells a story & the band simply adds a backdrop of noises & sounds to Erik's stories!

Some songs are loud & fast, some songs are mellow & artsy...overall this is project is very Henry Rollins like, but musically there's moments where I'm reminded of Mastadon....it's a cool project.



RORY GALLAGHER
The Beat Club Sessions

Track Listing: Laundromat, Hands Up, Sinnerboy, Just The Smile, I Don't Know Where I'm Going, I Could've Had Religion, Used To Be, In Your Town, Should've Learned My Lesson, Crest of a Wave, Toredown, Messin' With The Kid

Rating: 6 stars!

Rory Gallagher never truly gained the notoriety in the USA that he had overseas...the man is a blues rock original, a powerhouse player who played from the heart & lived his life the way he wanted to; Rory Gallagher played the blues!

This cool compilation cd captures several Beat Club performances & if you've never heard the man play before, this IS the CD to start with as far as I'm concerned!

The cd is all Rory originals rounded out by 2 Blues covers & listening to this CD I am reminded ALOT of Johnny Winters style playing because Rory played with soul, with heart, when he bent those strings on his guitar you could actually feel it! That's the sign of a good player & Rory Gallagher might no longer be with us but his legend will live on forever via his legendary performances, several of which are culled on this cd!

"Laundromat" is a sultry rocker while "Used To Be" is melancholy in parts...Rory Gallagher was up there with Stevie Ray Vaughan in terms of his playing!



NOBODY LIVES FOREVER

Cradle Bay

Track Listing:

I, Wounds Bloodstains & Ricochets, Of Things Past, Pain and Wastings, II, Eat Your Weight, Hide & Die, III, The Truth Will Out, Borden Road, IV, Cradle Bay, Shadows of the Gunmen

Rating: 4.5 stars!

Nobody Lives Forever is an interesting band name, it's quite honestly a mouthful & sounds more like a movie or book, but the bands name really does define what their music & sound is all about.

Blending symphonic elements with shred guitars, pounding drums & death metal vocals, Nobody Lives Forever's new cd "Cradle Bay" sounds excellent in terms of production, the mix is solid, the guitars are sharp & you can clearly hear the playing, the drums are micd PERFECT & the vocals are muddy when they are the cookie monster style & they are clean where the singing is clean; for this style of music the mix is dead on perfect!

"Pain and Wastings" is my favorite track & it's probably because it's a little simpler than some stuff on this cd, the clean vocals are a little more prevalent & the guitar tone sounds really good!

There actually is a concept to the record & the songs with roman numerals are instrumental passages that intro the next part of the record & my assumption is that the record is set up in chapters much like a book would be.

"Shadow of the Gunmen" is the records closer & it's an epic track that's got heavy parts, mellow parts, & this is the song that really brings the them of the record, the way it's set up in chapters, this is the song that makes you realize the record is set up like a book & this is the triumphant ending to it all!

Overall this is not a bad record, it sounds great & mixes clean vocals with death metal growls pretty well.



JANES ADDICTION
Live Voodoo Blu_Ray
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

I was actually fortunate enough to see Janes Addiction when they did their last tour, it was an epic concert that featured the original line up, Dave, Perry, Eric & Stephen as they re-lived their past glories & played their hearts out to the people who grew up & loved Janes Addiction's music.

Live Voodoo captures the bands set at the Voodoo Music Festival in New Orleans.

The set list is good, they play all the early stuff & the "hits" that we all know & love! When you watch this dvd you also get to see something that never was because after this tour ended was when original bassist Eric Avery quit & was replaced by non other than Duff McKagan from Guns N Roses!

"Mountain Song" starts off with a bass line that's so dark that it's almost spooky yet it's also beautiful in all it's mystery & deepness.

"Three Days" is pure Janes Addiction & it's one of those songs that you will remember.

"Been Caught Stealing" is the bands biggest hit & to be honest with you, I think it's the least memorable song on this collection!

"Stop!" is the song that really brings it all home, it's fast, powerful & moving & explains what Janes Addiction IS all about!

"Janes Says" is moving & Perkins plays the steel drums for this one; it's such a simple song, yet when you listen to the lyrics, it's uplifting & sad all in the same breath.

There's some cool bonus features on this disc including a photo gallery, NME featurette that's a good watch & 2 bonus live tracks, "1%" & "Ocean Size" which rock hard!

What can I say, this is simply Janes Addiction, live, no overdubs, no bs, they sound amazing, they played superb at this concert, it was on Halloween night of 2009 & this is a testament to just how amazing the band was on their 2009 world tour!



NILS LOFGREN
Cry Tough DVD
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

Nils Lofgren has ties that are close to Rock N Roll Experience & it's because he is from the same state & area that we are, Nils is a Maryland boy!

Nils is best known as a member of Bruce Springsteen's band & he's had a very success solo career that's spanned over 3 decades!

This new dvd entitled "Cry Tough" c is a nice little snapshot of the man & his music from the past 3 decades as this 2 dvd set captures Nils filmed live in Germany in 1976, 1979 & 1991.

What you see in these concerts is the various incarnations of Nil's solo bands, the members might have changed, but Nils passion for his music NEVER changed!

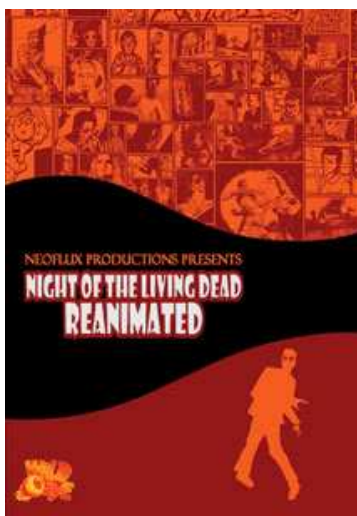
There's 2 different versions of "Cry Tough" & it's interesting to see how the same song was performed nearly 20 years apart & both times it has the same energy & stamina!

Nils always had a silent kinda cool, he was never a super flashy guy, he was never as defined as Bruce Springsteen; Nils quietly stayed in the backdrop & let his playing & his music speak for

itself rather than making his appearance the focal point. Nils DOES have a strong stage presence, but I would compare him to Tom Petty in that he's a simple man, average, plain, very boy next door, yet he's a talented dude & his performance is always solid as you can see on these dvd's!

I'll say just because it's the most recent, I enjoyed the 1991 set the most & it's also the longest performance on this set with a total of 20 songs performed!

Part folk rock, part singer songwriter, part ballad-meister, Nils Lofgren has always written solid material & this 2 dvd set really does explain the career Nils has had over the past 3 decades & this is a damn good set of well written music on a 2 dvd set!*



NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD
Reanimated DVD

Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

Night of the Living Dead is a classic horror movie & I personally consider it to be the original "zombie" movie, it's a classic, it's old school & it's really low budget.

When I was offered the chance to review the newly reanimated version of this classic film I jumped at the offer because I remember watching the original film growing up, it was campy, goofy & in all honesty it was never scary, it was just a fun movie to watch & laugh at.

The "reanimated" version starts off with a man dressed as a vampire & he essentially introduces the film to the watcher. This is a throwback to the old school horror movies that would air every weekend on most television sets late at night & usually on the weekends.

The Vampire MC is not scary whatsoever, the entire set is actually goofy looking & that's what makes it so much fun; it's over the top Halloween decorations & costumes, the guy is cool simply because it's all so cheesy!

The actual movie is a trip to watch, it's part animation, part stop motion, there's real actors, barbie dolls, hand drawn cartoons, computer generated stuff & overall the entire movie is a mix-mash of every kinda animation you can think of all spliced together to make one helluva unique viewing experience!

The only thing that remains true to the original movie is the plot & the soundtrack, everything else is redone & for what it's worth, this is a fun movie to watch!

There's some cool bonus footage that includes extended scenes, how they created certain aspects of the movie & more!

DO NOT buy this dvd expecting a high end, amazing movie; buy this dvd expecting a unique reinterpretation of the original movie that's still low budget & fun as hell to watch!



POWERGLOVE

Saturday Morning Apocalypse

Track Listing: X-Men, Gotta Catch Em All, The Real Adventures of Johnny Quest, This is Halloween, Batman, Transformers, Inspector Gadget, Heffalumps & Woozles (Winnie the Pooh), The Simpsons (Feat. Tony Kakko), The Flintstones, Gotta Catch Em All (Feat. Tony Kakko)

Rating: 5 stars!

The buzz concerning the band Powerglove is pretty interesting....I had heard of the band long before I started to receive press materials on the band...the name reminded me of a long lost 80's N.W.O.B.H.M. band but what I found out when I finally got the bands latest release, "Saturday Morning Apocalypse" was that the band had a unique approach to it's music...the compositions were all based primarily after cartoon themes!

Take for example "X-Men" which is a cover of the popular kids cartoon theme...the band plays the song in a neo-shred-metal style & what they do to keep it original is they build off the original theme & add their own breakdowns, tempo changes & solos!

"This is Halloween" has been covered a few times by bigger rock acts, but NONE of those artists have performed a cover quite like this version & it's because the song is played with precision, in a classical metal style, there's NO vocals & the guitar parts are stellar!

My personal favorites off this disc are "Inspector Gadget", "The Flintstones" & "The Simpsons".

Probably due to my age, there were a few songs on here that I didn't quite know, so it was only natural that I immediately fell in love with the songs I knew from my childhood first!

Everything about this record is cool from the music to the artwork, it's a definite must have if you like killer shred metal, the only downfall is that most of these songs are instrumentals!



HIS NAME WAS YESTERDAY

s/t

Track Listing: Where It All Ends, Again and Again, No More Tomorrow, Killshed, Lost Our Way, Echoes of the Past, Memory of Me, In Hell, Face The Truth, It Always Ends In Fire, Goodbye To Yesterday

Rating: 6 stars!

Immediately addictive, the new record from His Name Was Yesterday will rip your dick off & trust me, that's a good thing!!!

The best way I can describe the bands sound is that they sound alot like Bullet for My Valentine minus the whiney & at times annoying accents that B.F.M.V. have in their vocals.

"Where It Ends" starts the disc off right...loud, fast & heavy!

There guitar solos are nothing too complex & often times they sound really simple...that's what makes this band so amazing in my opinion, nothing is overtly complicated & it's all relatable!

"Echoes of the Past" is my personal favorite off this disc, it's got both clean & aggro vocals, the guitar tone is ultra rich & powerful & it's really what metal is all about in 2010 as far as I'm concerned!

"Goodbye To Yesterday" is the only slow song on this disc & it features Joe from STEMM doing the back up vocals.

This is a solid, kick ass metal release, it's worth checking out, I think every song stands on it's own, each track is good & you can listen to a single song at a time or the entire record as a whole & you will be taken to different places each time!

**JAKOB MARTIN****Leave The Light On**

Track Listing: Leave The Light On, Devil In Me, Providence, Elephants In Water, Ten Thousand People In White

Rating: 4 stars!

Some releases really catch your ear & stand out as unique visions from a band, song writer, or artist...then other releases are simply releases that are put out for the sake of pop music.

The new record "Leave The Light On" by Jakob Martin is a well written sorta pop record that sounds like a stripped down Maroon 5.

There's elements of pop, rock, blues & even R&B on this 5 song EP. The EP gives the listener a small taste of a new artist & for what it's worth, I'll give this EP credit, it is a good introduction to what Jakob Martin is all about...well crafted pop-rock songs.



**ASSAULT OF THE SASQUATCH "Special Edition"
DVD**

Track Listing:

Rating: 5 stars!

Bigfoot has long since been a hot topic, but I almost thought the popularity of Sasquatch had become unpopular since the late 70's/early 80's....I was wrong though because there's a new dvd movie out entitled "Assault of the Sasquatch" that's as cheesy as the title suggests.

The plot to the movie is simple, a bear poacher is arrested while on a hunt, the bear hunter's vehicle is impounded & unbeknownst to the rest of the world, the vehicle has a bigfoot inside!

The plot revolves around Bigfoot seeking revenge for being taken out of his natural habitat...that's the movie in a nutshell & for those planning on checking out this movie I will not give away the ending, I'll leave that as a surprise!

This movie has some fairly decent actors, the plot is very B movie-ish & what I will admit is that horror movies coming out via independent distributors are actually better than the one's released by major motion picture companies!

The beauty of dvd movies, atleast to me, is the extra footage...there's commentary, bloopers, original trailers, & a few other cool extras that are nice little added bonuses!

Probably the funniest moment in the movie is where Bigfoot is watching a woman get undressed & when she gets in the shower Bigfoot comes into her home, sniffs her worn bra & proceeds to watch her taking a shower, then he kills her!



**THE MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP
The 30th Anniversary Concert - Live in Tokyo DVD**

Track Listing:**Rating: 6 stars!**

Michael Schenker has a long career that spans 3 decades+, he was in The Scorpions, he made a name for himself in his own band MSG & he's been around the rock n roll block quite a few times.

This dvd captures MSG in 2010 & the bands current singer Gary Barden actually reminds me slightly of Klaus from The Scorpions just in his looks alone!

Michael's backing band is good but I won't lie, this dvd is ALL about Schenker's guitar playing! Schenker starts the dvd off with a guitar solo & EVERY song has extended leads, otherwise it wouldn't be Michael Schenker!

Schenker is a guitar god in his own right & stand out tracks on this dvd are "Armed & Ready", "Into The Arena" & "Rock Bottom".

The bonus features on this disc include a sneak peak at the band rehearsing for this show...for rehearsal the band sounds amazing, then there's a second bonus part entitled "Backstage Impressions" that lets you see the band arriving at the venue, setting up their gear, checking before the show & overall it's pretty cool to see the stuff that no one outside the band usually ever sees!

If you like good old school metal guitar playing with elements of the blues mixed in for feeling you will love this dvd & if you buy it before December of 2010 you can enter the cool contest that's inside the packaging, you can win an MSG guitar or other cool prizes!



The Rolling Stones
Ladies & Gentlemen - Blue Ray Disc
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

The Rolling Stones released this concert film back in the early 70's & it was in limited release to movie theaters only before it was put out of print & shelved for many, many years.

in 2010 this concert film will finally see actual release via blu ray disc & it gives the Stones fans a nice package of vintage "Exile" era concert clips.

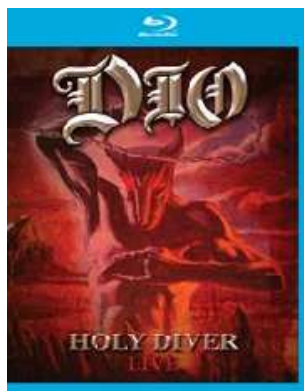
The concert starts off with "Brown Sugar" & Mick sounds gritty & raw while Mick looks cool as hell playing guitar & being a rock star without even trying!

"Bitch" is probably my personal favorite & it's because the song has a great groove...anything The Stones do live will definitely be raw & rough but regardless, the emotions & pure rock n roll excess are there ten fold!

"Dead Flowers" is quite lovely, "Midnight Rambler" is a rock n roll number soaked in blues based rhythm, & the last 2 songs of the set, "Jumpin' Jack Flash" & "Street Fighting Man" bring this packed crowd to their knees, but I'm pretty sure this movie was filmed at several shows & pieced together with the best possible performances for each song.

The highlights of the disc are the unseen gems: There's rehearsal footage of the band prepping for the "Exile" tour in Switzerland & that footage is pretty cool because it's the band in a small setting just practicing! Also included are some vintage interview clips from the 70's & a brand new Mick Jagger interview from 2010 as well!

This is honestly a perfect Xmas gift for ANY Classic rock fan!



DIO
Holy Diver Live - Blu Ray Disc

Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

The trend of playing an album in it's entirety, live, onstage, was never done better than when it was done by Ronnie James Dio because when he performed "Holy Diver" from start to finish he & his backing band did it with zest, fever & passion!

This Blu Ray disc captures a 2005 performance of "Holy Diver" in it's entirety alongside a nice selection of Dio standards both solo & with other bands.

"Heaven & Hell" by Black Sabbath is featured towards the end of the set alongside hard rock standards, "Rainbow in the Dark", "We Rock" & "Long Live Rock N Roll".

Dio's band was comprised of White Snake axe man Doug Aldrich, Quiet Riot bassist Rudy Sarzo & Simon Wright on drums.

The bonus section on this disc features a few cool interviews with Dio, but the concert as a complete work is very impressive; the audio is superb digital quality, the video is clear & makes you feel like you were there at the show!

Watching this dvd, it's sad we lost Ronnie, he was a heavy metal pioneer & a one of a kind vocalist that created a style of music that has often been imitated, but NEVER duplicated!

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