

# FAMOUS UNDERGROUND – Famous Underground

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Tags: 80's rock, Classic Rock, Famous Underground, Glam, hair metal, Hard Rock, Metal, rock



**Canadian glam-rockers Famous Underground release this self titled retro-ripper with a modern take on a bygone era.**

**Re-inventing the wheel they ain't, but they barely put a foot wrong over eleven tracks and a couple of bonuses.**

You'll get something of a surprise when listening to the eponymous track *Famous Underground* - a pleasant surprise that is. If you look at the band beforehand, you'll probably think that you'll be in for a trip down the well worn path of '80s revivalism and a comfy snooze, but that isn't the case at all.

The opener *Wasteland* harks back to **Velvet Revolver's** first record with its driving riffs and bludgeoning beat, showing you that this is not simply a repackaged '80s reminiscence after all. *Overdrive*, *Dead Weight* and *Love Stands Still* are all solid metallic rockers with vocals and lead guitar rough enough around the edges to escape being just formulaic period throwbacks.

*Forever And A Day* is something of a throwback however, and a curious beast at that. Surrounded by down-tuned, overdriven guitars and double kick tremors elsewhere, it's a song that is essentially a mash-up of **Poison**, **Bon Jovi** and **Extreme** with lead parts taken right out of **Slash's** playbook is not something which you'd expect to succeed. But in this instance it is, in fact, something of a high point.

*Necropolis* moves into the 21st century decisively with a heavier, chugging riff while *Wheel Of Misfortune* goes heavier again with a **Slash's Snakepit** style groove. Things do take a turn for the worse though (thankfully the only let down) with the pretty lacklustre *Mommy Is A Junkie*; the band not having consulted the annals of rock n' roll classics, else they might have discovered *My Michelle* and not wasted their time.

Things pick up though with *On Broken Wings*, the album's **Slash** or **Myles Kennedy** moment, that definitely has one eye on the FM radio playlists. It's pure American radio-rock, but a credit to the band's versatility and songwriting craft. *Bullet Train* follows through with a Gatling gun riff and double kick pitter-patter that pockmarks your eardrums, softening you up for the finale. That finale comes in the form of *Hell To Pay* with its filthy riff that that adds more of a blues-rock

edge that is lacking from the rest of the record. The band is definitely better when they choose grit over bombast and that's never more obvious than on the final track.

*This album is bang on the money when it comes to length, and the songs, while not absolutely perfect, certainly deliver enough to deflect most of the criticism that most bands in the classic rock and hair metal genres usually let themselves in for. Essentially, Famous Underground don't do anything badly and while the two bonus tracks, acoustic versions of Dead Weight and On Broken Wings, are surplus to requirements, they don't detract from the album's consistency and competency.*

*Back in 2004, the newly formed Velvet Revolver remarked that Sebastian Bach had auditioned for lead singer, the role that Scott Weiland went on to fill, and that they had turned him down. Well, I had an idea what that would have sounded like and had always been curious. After listening to Famous Underground, I'm curious no more.*

### **MetalMouth Rating : 8/10**

For Fans Of: L.A Guns, Guns 'N' Roses, Skid Row, Slash, Velvet Revolver, Poison, Extreme, Bon Jovi, Slash's Snakepit, Ratt

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## **Track Listing**

1. Wasteland – 7/10
2. Overdrive – 7/10
3. Dead Weight – 7/10
4. Love Stands Still – 7/10
5. Forever And A Day – 8/10
6. Necropolis – 7.5/10
7. Wheel Of Misfortune – 7.5/10
8. Mommy Is A Junkie – 5/10
9. On Broken Wings – 8/10
10. Bullet Train – 7.5/10
11. Hell to Pay – 8/10

## Band Members

- Nick Walsh – Vocals
- Laurie-Anne Green – Bass
- Rick Corvese – Guitar
- Darren Boyd – Guitar
- Desche Sparboom – Drums

## Release Details & Links

Record Label: Dust On The Tracks Records

Release Date: 7th June 2013

- Famous Underground – Facebook
- Famous Underground – Official Site



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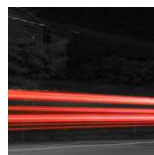
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