

The Impaler Speaks

Famous Underground - s/t



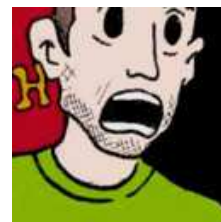
Famous Underground – s/t ([Dust On The Tracks/MVD Audio](#))

The eponymous debut from Canadian rockers Famous Underground is reminiscent of the glory days of so-called 'hair metal' in many ways... all of them good, I assure you. The bad aspects of that highly misunderstood genre – the unnecessary excesses, the propensity of style over substance, the overly slick production values, and so on – are not present here. Not even a little bit. Instead, Famous Underground is playing a hand that seems to have come from a deck stacked with nothing but aces. The band is fronted by Nick Walsh, whose 'back in the day' band, Slik Toxik, never quite caught on with the MTV crowd in the USA despite releasing one of the finest slabs of heavy sleaze rock ever recorded, 1992's 'Smooth & Deadly'. Walsh later joined forces with Crash Kelly's virtuoso guitarist Sean Kelly in the kick-ass heavy rock outfit Revolver, and is currently working with Kelly and a who's-who of Canadian hard rock heroes – including Lee Aaron and members of Kick Axe, Helix, Coney Hatch, Headpins, and Killer Dwarfs – in a project called Metal On Ice. Walsh, a definite trump card in any hand, is blessed with one of the most natural and powerful voices in hard rock, and he delivers the goods at every turn here. One of the biggest – and impossible to deny in most cases – complaints about the majority of albums released during the 'hair metal' heyday was that the bands were cooking up one or two catchy singles but filling up the bulk of the space on their records with half-baked ideas and other flotsam. Famous Underground, happily, put serious effort into this release, which features 11 stand-up tracks, with 2 of them – the probably-way-too-heavy-but-certainly-hooky-enough 'Dead Weight' and the insta-classic power ballad 'On Broken Wings' – repeated in alternate versions as bonus tracks on the CD version. In addition to Walsh's ass-kicking vocals and an undeniably solid collection of songs, this band has, well itself. Guitarists Rick Corvese and Darren Michael Boyd, bassist Laurie-Anne Green, and drummer Desche Sparboom are all hard rock veterans and certified specialists in their respective instruments, providing a tight yet wholly alive accompaniment to Walsh's vocal attack. If you need a few 'reference if you like' type nods, think: Skid Row, Ice Cold July, and Savatage. If you just need some bad-ass hard rock in your life, think: Famous Underground. **The Impaler** [@impalerspeaks](#)

[Famous Underground](#) ** [@famousundergrnd](#)

Posted 3 weeks ago

1 note



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

Follow [@impalerspeaks](#) on Twitter for more fun.

If you have a serious question or comment, this is the place for it.

My blog All of Tumblr

Latest Tweets

Steve Conte ([@SteveConteNYC](#)):
The Steve Conte NYC Album update: Photos: The London Sessions! <http://t.co/gPdKVrrfTB> [@PledgeMusic](#)

Entombed ([@TheEntombed](#)):
Entombed – The Threeman Reissues update: Blessed Be Thee Who Pledged ! 100% Entombed ! <http://t.co/n5YQ2Ryory>

Flotsam and Jetsam ([@Flotztilddeath](#)): No Place for Disgrace 2014 update: P.A.A.B – PreProduction Clip has been uplo... <http://t.co/aksgFmbvMz>

RT [@GorillaProducer](#):
[#GorillaFilmmaker](#) is out! ▶ stories via [@impalerspeaks](#) [@jessmazo](#) [@lesfilmfestival](#) [@jett84](#) ▶ <http://t.co/1cYDm9KEoc> #su...

RT [@DanielsMovie](#): [@impalerspeaks](#) Hey currently raising funds via [#kickstarter](#) for our first #film in Wales <http://t.co/JPfDuj0tQM> please he...

[@gwgferris](#) [@itsthedarcys](#) [#Warring](#) was released yesterday. I bought it yesterday!! [#bliss](#)