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Accept

Metal Blast From The Past

(Music Video Distributors)

Let's face it; it's a well-known and generally undisputed fact that many once prominent Hard Rock and Heavy Metal artists (so-called 'Old School' acts in particular) do not age gracefully once their previously lucrative careers fall from public favor. The examples, too numerous and too embarrassing to list within such an arguably limited forum, invariably surround us all. Despite this, a disturbingly large (and rapidly growing) sub-genre of classic (and would-be classic) groups remain improbably active, steadfastly delivering a curiously chosen combination of both newly recorded and decades old material in a painfully lame attempt to re-establish themselves within the increasingly fickle target demographic they so long ago dominated. Fortunately for all parties involved, this is most definitely not the case with Teutonic legends Accept.

On the stellar Metal Blast From The Past (2006), a somewhat shoddily assembled thirty one track (!) DVD retrospective collection of expertly executed Heavy Metal, each track, beginning with the ridiculously underrated "Metal Heart", the curiously-titled "Screaming For A Love-Bite", and the maddeningly infectious "Living For Tonite", immediately commands the rapt and undivided attention of even the most jaded and unimaginative of listeners (myself most definitely included) with a mostly mid-tempo barrage of searing (if not somewhat ear-piercing) vocals, relentless guitars and imaginatively abusive rhythms that are--despite being almost entirely entrenched amid the fist-pumping, mosh-inducing insanity that has defined much of the recent and not-so-recent past--quite easily worthy of the highest of critical and commercial accolades.

Continuing with the emotion-laden "Princess Of The Dawn", the often overlooked gem "Son Of A Bitch", and the unintentionally homoerotic "London Leatherboys", the steadfast--to say the very least--combination of vocalist Udo Dirkschneider, guitarists Wolf Hoffman (who has since gone on to become a highly successful Nashville, Tennessee-based photographer and Jorg Fischer, bassist Peter Baltes and drummer Stefan Kaufmann (ex-Fathers Of Intention) steamrolls forward at an occasionally breakneck pace, effectively solidifying an undoubtedly well-deserved reputation as a creative force not to be ignored--both sonically and visually--amid the increasingly stagnant and pointlessly inbred Hard Rock and Heavy Metal genres without resorting to the shameless, payola and chart position-driven tactics so common amid the so-called "mainstream".

Jam-packed throughout with a blistering live performance from the group's highly successful 1985 world tour as well as three tracks from an equally impressive 1993 stop in Bulgaria, nine previously unreleased audio tracks, seven videos and a slew of never before seen footage, other standouts, including the pummeling "Fast As A Shark", the seemingly obligatory "Balls To The Wall", and the equally impressive closer "Objection Overruled" (taken from the group's unbelievably stunning, much-celebrated 1993 "comeback" disc of the same name), offer a wealth of compelling further visual and sonic evidence--even though at this point, with the inescapable presence of such an impressive pedigree, none is actually needed--in support of the almost unbelievable wealth of lyrical and musical wizardry at the molten epicenter of each truly breathtaking composition.

Although the majority (if not all) of the quasi-legendary material contained herein would undoubtedly serve as an ideal jumping off point for both the uninitiated and the forgetful alike, the overall lack of quality (i.e. incomplete performances and a painfully grainy picture) and cheese-riddled packaging are likely to only frustrate die-hard completists looking to replace their undoubtedly well-worn VHS copy of the original brilliant Staying A Life video. Despite this, if you are looking--and at this point, we certainly hope that you are--for a nostalgia-inducing trip down memory lane that will actually leave with a little of your hard-earned money in you pocket (Metal Blast From The Past can be purchased via several well-known retailers for an average of \$25), then this, my friends, might just be what the doctor ordered. Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

Select Discography

Metal Blast From The Past (DVD) (2006)

The Final Chapter (1998) ****

Predator (1996) *****

Death Row (1994) *****

Objection Overruled (1992) ****

Staying A Life (1990) ***

Eat The Heat (1989) ***

Russian Roulette (1986) *

Kaizoku-Ban (EP) (1985) *

Metal Heart (1985) *

Balls To The Wall (1983) *

Restless And Wild (1982) *

Breaker (1981) *

I'm A Rebel (1980) *

Accept (1979) *

* released via CBS Records

** released via Portrait Records

*** released via Epic Records

**** released via CMC International Records

***** released via RCA Records

***** released via Music Video Distributors

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