

## NEWS IN VIEWS

Their music was largely experimental, combining elements of death rock, traditional gothic rock and glam rock.

**Shadow Project** was a special sort of band. It was almost a prerequisite to like them during that strange time in the goth scene during the mid-90s, due to the presence of the late, much lamented **Rozz Williams**. They were, however, a hard band to like; their music was largely experimental, combining elements of death rock, traditional gothic rock and glam rock. Formed by original (and many would argue only) **Christian Death** frontman **Rozz Williams** and his then-wife **Eva O**, and named after a peculiar effect of the bombings at Hiroshima (many victims left only shadows burned into the pavement), they were a vehicle for the religious leanings of the couple at the time. These leanings were dark, and **Shadow Project** was just as dark.

**Rozz Williams** (born **Roger Painter**) and **Eva O** (born **Eva Oritz**) were important figures of the LA death rock scene that bloomed from the LA punk scene of the early '80s. **Rozz** led the band **Christian Death**, to many the leading light - along with **45 Grave** and **T.S.O.L.** - of "death" rock. Iconic in their sound and imagery, the band split upon the addition of second-string singer

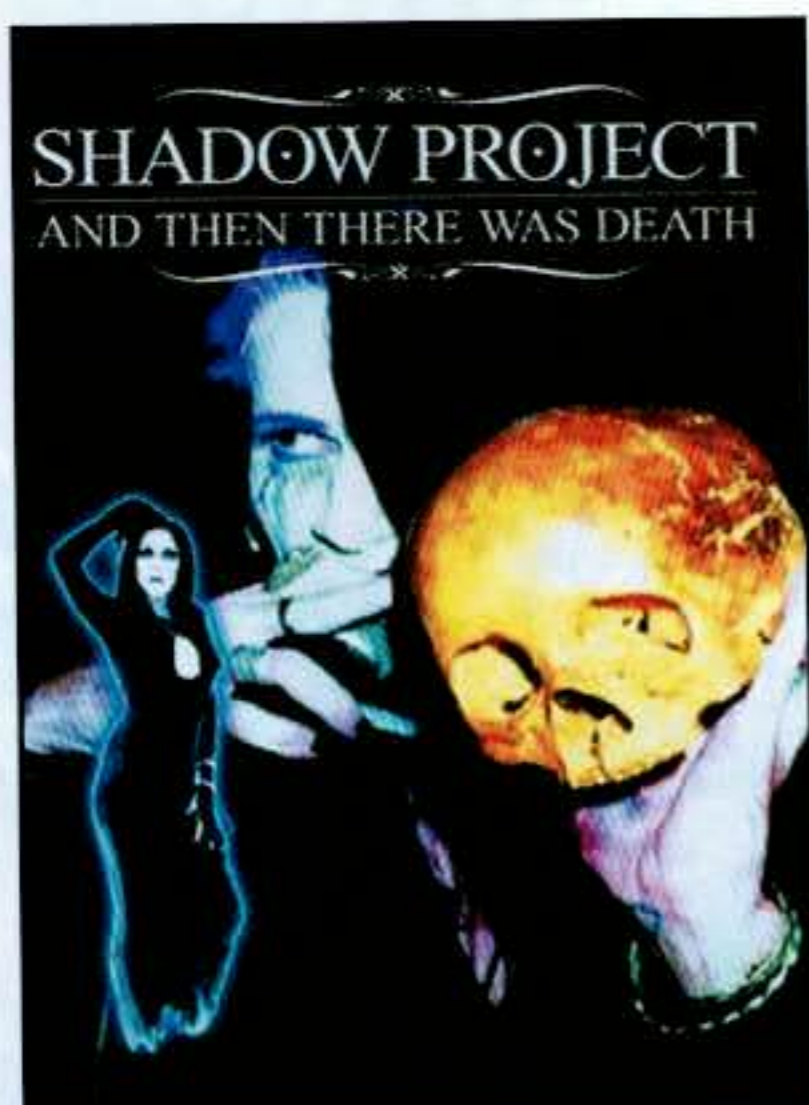
**Valor Kand** in 1985. **Rozz** had several additional projects, including **PREMATURE EJACULATION** and **DAUCUS KAROTA**, but **Shadow Project** was the best known. **Eva** had led **Superheroines** (a little-known female death rock band) in the early '80s but was perhaps best known for her contributions to

**Christian Death's** 1982 debut album **ONLY THEATRE OF PAIN**. The couple released two albums as **Shadow Project** then dissolved both the marriage and the band. **Eva** moved on to form

the **Eva O Halo Experience**, a Christian rock band; **Rozz** continued with his other projects, including his spoken word album **WHORSE'S MOUTH**. Other members of **Shadow Project** included bassist **Jill Emery** (who was with **Superheroines** and also worked with **Hole** and **Mazzy Star**), multi-instrumentalist **William Faith** (of **Faith & The Muse**), keyboardist **Paris**, **Tom Morgan** (ex-**Flesh Eaters**), **Christian Omar Madrigal Izzo** on percussion and drummer **Stevyn Grey**.

The DVD purports to be recorded at live venues throughout the '90s; unfortunately it never identifies where those venues are or when the shows occurred. The main show highlighted features **William Faith** on bass (all big hair and flashing boots), **Paris** on keyboards (looking appropriately spacey) and **Christian Omar Madrigal Izzo** on drums, as well as **Rozz** and **Eva** themselves, in fine, shocking form. The sound quality is not spectacular, but considering the footage is a combination of professional and shot-from-the-crowd amateur, it's excusable. There are some interesting special effects, and a mock crucifixion and exorcism (complete with **Rozz** tied to a cross) is made much of. Collected performances, unavailable elsewhere, include "Here and There," "Zaned People," "Death Plays His Role," "Static Jesus," "Holy Hell," "Holding You Close," "Under Your Wing" and "Holy Holy." Also included are rare interviews and candid moments with the band after a show, and these alone make the DVD worth the price of purchase. Tacked onto the very end is a lovely tribute to **Rozz**, who took his own life on April 1st, 1998. If you're a fan of goth or experimental music, you owe it to yourself to pick this up; with **Rozz** gone and only **Manson** to fill his space (poorly, in my opinion), it serves as a nice reminder of what once was.

-**Patricia Thomann;**  
(pattho@aent.com)



MOVIE OF THE WEEK:

# SHADOW PROJECT: AND THEN THERE WAS DEATH

Shadow Project: And Then There Was Death  
MYD4451DVD  
Street Date: July.12.2005