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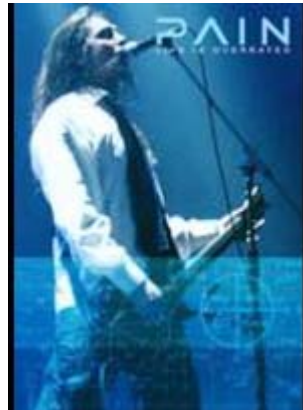
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Pain - Live Is Overrated

April 2006



Pain - Live Is Overrated
Metal Mind Productions
By Jesse Lynch

Ah, the solo project. Platform for narcissistic grandiosity? Result of the "I'm better than the rest of my band" syndrome? Outlet for a cool, creative endeavor? Often, solo projects end up being the first two. Sometimes with skin crawling results. However, with Pain, the later rings true. Peter Tägtgren has put together a solid project. His new DVD, Live Is Overrated, proves to be a good showcase for it.

The main concert of this DVD was filmed at Metalmania in Katowice, Poland 2005 before what looks to be a very large crowd. The first thing I noticed when the concert actually started was the sound; it was CD quality clear. Not so much that it lost that live feel to it but enough to make it more enjoyable than a lot of the bootleg sounding DVDs that seem to come out. Pain started right in with "Supersonic Bitch". Peter didn't address the crowd until he introduced the third song, the thundering "On Your Knees." This format would hold true for the entire concert. No idle banter here, just the occasional song introduction and straight to the music. He seems to have figured out the secret; people go to concerts to hear music, not listen to musicians with a limited amount to say blah blah blah through the mic. The live musicians that play with him, Tägtgren performs all the music and vocals on the CD's, play well but aren't overly animated. The focus here is obviously on Tägtgren in all his hair flailing and stage prowling might. He puts on enough of a show himself to keep things interesting.

At the time the DVD was filmed, Pain had released four discs, so they had plenty of songs to pull from. As far as the music, it's basically a synthesis of some techno elements and metal, with an emphasis on the metal. The music isn't as intense as Peter's other

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band, Hypocrisy, but it has more melodic elements that make it very entertaining. I found my self singing along to chorus' after just a few listens. Peter's vocals have a good range, from low death metal growls to a very melodic clean voice. The guitars are nice and heavy and the drumming is top notch.

The DVD extras include: a six song performance from a Polish TV studio, a two song bootleg from a Finnish club (with appropriate bootleg sound), seven sometimes very surreal music videos, discography, etc... There is also an interview with Tägtgren in which he answers some very direct questions with typically vague answers. Rock stars.

Overall, this is a very enjoyable concert DVD. I watched it several more times than necessary to write about it. The music is intense but doesn't weigh you down. The filming is well done. I especially like the fact that it didn't jump every three seconds to a different angle like some meth induced nightmare. And the sound was done really well. Tägtgren said that he mixed it himself, which gives credence to his reputation as an excellent producer. Don't be scared by the techno mix, this is a metal performance through and through. Swedish metal fans should really get a kick out of it.

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