



## Blasting-Zone.com

### Impaler

Reviews

#### House Band Of The Funeral Parlor (Music Video Distributors)

I know I've said it before and I'm quite positive I'll say it again; I enjoy well-executed Horror Rock as much--if not more--than the next average red-blooded American male. In fact, for as long as I can remember, I have genuinely appreciated the blend of Horror movie imagery and Punk Rock sensibilities that have helped make groups such as the Misfits, Samhain and White Zombie the '...household...' names they arguably are today. Unfortunately for all parties involved, the once prominent legacies of these groups has become painfully distorted (if not outright lost) with the inevitability of time, leaving the genre itself aching for, well, a renaissance. Thus, when I was initially approached about writing a feature regarding the long-awaited second DVD offering from St. Paul, MN-based veterans Impaler, I was only more than happy to oblige.

On the stellar House Band Of The Funeral Parlor (2007), a long-overdue twenty nine song (!) collection of rumbling, delightfully schlocky Heavy Metal, each track, beginning with the relentlessly pummeling "Legend Of The 13 Graves", and the blistering "Island Of The Damned" (taken from the group's sweat-soaked August 2003 show at Minneapolis's legendary First Avenue), instantly assaults one's senses with a refreshing, mostly mid-tempo barrage of menacing vocals, scalding fretwork and imaginatively punishing rhythms. Once again proving themselves thoroughly worthy of the more than considerable '...underground...' hype typically bestowed upon them, the group wastes little--if any--time delivering an eye-pleasing, career-spanning retrospect quite easily worthy of the highest of critical and commercial accolades.

Continuing with the bowel-churning tirade "Rise Of The Mutants", and a demo version of the gleefully over-the-top "Bloodbath" (taken from the group's equally memorable January 1984 show at the now infamous Pillar And Post), the combination of ghoulish frontman Bill Lindsey and his band of not necessarily merry men steamroll ahead like the well-oiled machine they have so obviously been. Offering both new and established fans alike--myself most definitely included--an indescribably rare opportunity to vicariously relive the group's prototypical past, the undeniable enthusiasm and boundless energy at the ice cold heart of each hook-laden composition remains tangible throughout, undoubtedly securing the group many a new fan. Seriously, man...how can you not dig jammin' to a group that enjoys themselves this much?

Fortified throughout by an exhaustive barrage of seldom seen (if not previously unreleased) '...oddities and rarities...' other standouts, including the recently completed video the for the maddeningly infectious "Last Ride", and clips from the group's ingenious 1998 Cable Access Halloween show and *Goblin Queen* TV appearance, offer a veritable wealth of undeniably compelling sonic evidence in support of the frequently ferocious foursome's often-overlooked status as pioneers of the genre. Even if you somehow fail to find the humor and spirit amid the quartet's decidedly unique, stage prop-fueled delivery, one must, at the very least, sincerely admire the group's remarkably steadfast dedication to perfecting their craft, a characteristic that instantly sets them apart from their few genuinely legitimate contemporaries.

Trust me, I know what you're probably thinking. Is it *really* that freakin' good? Ab-so-fucking-lutely! A definite must-have for any truly serious Old School Shock Rock aficionado, the majority--if not all--of the decidedly campy material contained herein Rocks with a much-welcomed tongue-in-cheek bravado many groups of such ilk have strived for but failed to achieve. Wanna see the seemingly forgotten D.I.Y. mentality of yore taken to an entirely new level? You needn't look any further, dude. Needless to say, if you've once again found yourself in search of a fist-pumping, mosh-inducing alternative to the overly-hyped sonic mishmash of Manson, Wednesday 13 and their like-minded brethren, then this, my friends, might just be the blood-caked, corpse paint-encrusted fix you've been looking for. Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

#### Select Discography

House Band Of The Funeral Parlor (2007)  
Habeas Corpus (2005)  
666 Dreary Lane (2003)  
Old School Ghouls (2002)  
The Mutants Rise Again (EP) (2001)  
One Nation Underground (2000)  
The Gruesome Years (2000)  
Black Leather Monster (2000)  
It Won't Die (1998)  
Undead Things (1996)  
Wake Up Screaming (1990)  
If We Had Brains...We'd Be Dangerous (1986)  
Rise Of The Mutants (EP) (1985)

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