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HRH - REVIEWS

Stryper
Live In Puerto Rico MVD

by John Kindred
Staff Writer



Comments: The yellow and black attack is back! Stryper was the first Christian metal band to break into the mainstream music scene and deliver the message of hope through the Lord. The bands anti-Satan approach to metal proved to be a counter-reaction to the rising anti-God and moral deprivation of many of the '80s most popular metal bands.

Stryper features the soaring vocals of Michael Sweet, the twin axe attack of Michael Sweet and Oz Foxx, the "visual timekeeper" Robert Sweet bashing the skins and the technical expertise of bassist Timothy Gaines. Above all the band is highlighted by strong harmony vocals that truly set them above their peers. Putting all these elements together isn't enough unless you can write strong and engaging

music and Stryper carried that torch high as well.

The DVD release of *Live In Puerto Rico* is a testimony to the band's enduring legacy. The concert was recorded on March 6, 2004 in Puerto Rico as Stryper was winding down their reunion tour and preparing for the future. Live In Puerto Rico captures the band performing their most popular songs and break through hits that catapulted the band to stardom.

MTV staples "Free," "Calling On Your" and the phenomenal "Honestly" are centerpieces to the set list that also includes "To Hell With the Devil," "Soldiers Under Command," the joyous "Sing Along Song" and their Christmas remake of "Winter Wonderland."

Highlights of the show include the dual guitar harmony solos that Michael Sweet and Foxx perform together with flawless execution. Both men should find themselves in the top of any rankings system that calls out the best guitarist of the metal genre. The bands harmony vocals are true to form and a blessing to the bands overall sound. Without the vocal talents of the band, Stryper would fall into the category of ordinary.


Live In Puerto Rico adds as bonus material to the DVD which features live performances recorded in '89 in Tokyo, Japan. Those songs include "Keep The Fire Burning," "Always There For You" and "Rockin' The World." Also included are bass, guitar and drum solos from that '89 show.

On a side note, the DVD obviously was released after '05's reunion CD release of *Reborn*, which unfortunately was recorded after the departure of long time Stryper bassist Timothy Gaines. Also of interest is what the acronym "Stryper" stands for: Salvation Through Redemption Yielding Peace, Encouragement and Righteousness. The Isaiah 53:5 under their logo is the Bible verse that states "by His stripes we are healed."

The band whose beginnings began in the early '80s, found their way, lost their way only to find it again. Praise should be given to God for bringing a positive message in music and in the metal genre, to counteract all the negatives of the genre.

Band Members:
Michael Sweet (g)(v)
Robert Sweet (d)

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| Contests: |
| NO ACTIVE CONTESTS |


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Oz Foxx (g)
 Timothy Gaines (b)

Track Listing:

1. Sing Along Song
2. Makes Me Want To Sing
3. Calling On You
4. Free
5. More Than A Man
6. Caught In The Middle
7. You Won't Be Lonely
8. Reach Out
9. Loud And Clear
10. The Way
11. Soldiers Under Command
12. To Hell With The Devil
13. Honestly
14. Winter Wonderland

Hardrock Haven rating: 7.8/10

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