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Stryper: Live in Puerto Rico



Posted by [Mark Fisher](#)

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As a fan of 80s music, I have consistently been disgusted over the last decade as various bands have been erased from the face of the American music scene. There is plenty of room for all and the popularity of bands like Stryper, Enuff Z'Nuff, Bullet Boys, and Bang Tango abroad are solid evidence of that. Current American bands are popular overseas alongside bands that are time tested. There's enough sales out there for everyone to simply listen to what they love.



Now that my tirade is over may I suggest the new Stryper DVD for your viewing pleasure? After a mediocre "reunion" album (it's no secret that this was being recorded as a Michael Sweet solo album in its original form) and a freakin' amazing live album from the reunion tour, the boys offer up their last show with the original lineup; live from Puerto Rico where the band are still rock's reigning bible slingers. Recorded March 06, 2004 the DVD features mostly the same songs that the live album did, which is disappointing to a degree because longtime fans, such as myself, would have enjoyed a few surprises. That said, the DVD is top notch – it looks and sounds great, which was an unexpected bonus.

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The DVD opens with "Sing Along Song" and the large crowd is immediately ignited. Utilizing a scaled down model of their classic stage set, the band works their way through a set of songs that lean more towards the band's heavier, earlier, work. "Soldiers Under Command" (which the audience oddly doesn't seem to recognize), "To Hell With the Devil," "Calling On You," "Free," and "Makes Me Want to Sing" all sound great and possibly even a little heavier than they were back in the day. "Honestly," the song that launched Stryper into the upper echelon of their day, rounds out the show alongside the cult favorite "Winter Wonderland."

While the band sounds and looks great, there are a number of intriguing things about this performance. For instance, the only song off of *Against the Law* is "Caught in the Middle" (and no, Michael doesn't say the "cuss word") and there isn't a single song from *In God We Trust*, the band's biggest selling album and the one that cemented their careers as well as warranted an "around the world twice" tour. The bonus footage is a nice treat though. Taken from the *In God We Trust* tour in 1989, it offers footage of Robert's drum solo (with that huge, wild looking drum kit that he had in which he climbed up a flag pole to mount himself on), Tim and Oz's pretty lame solos (remember that back then every band member got introduced and got a solo –something I do not

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