

REVIEW SCALE

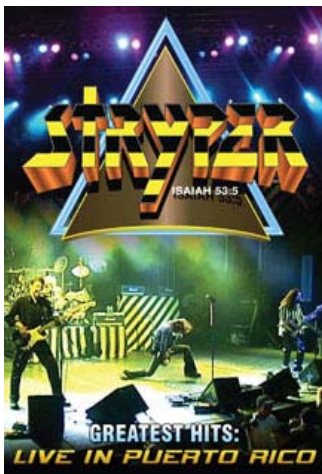
- 5 – The album is excellent, it could also be considered perfect or near perfect. There may be a few glitches or setbacks, but they are not detrimental.
- 4 – The album is very good. There aren't too many glitches or setbacks but the ones that are present keep the album from being excellent.
- 3 – The album is mediocre. While the album is alright, there isn't anything that makes it stand out above other albums. Some of it is good, and some of it needs work.
- 2 – The album is bad. Many things have gone wrong, and unless it happens to be within your personal favorite genre, chances are it's not even worth your time. The band has a lot to work on.
- 1 – The album is terrible. The album isn't worth your time, no exceptions.

Note: Be aware that in November 2004 the grading scale was revised to how it is shown above in order to maintain more consistences between our reviewers. Many of the reviews in our Archive may include ½ marks and ¼ marks and please be aware that the ratings at that time were also more open to our reviewers' interpretations of the rating scale, as opposed to this now absolute grading scale which our reviewers are responsible to follow in their rating procedures.

REVIEWS

Stryper – **Greatest Hits: Live in Puerto Rico (DVD)** - added - April 20th, 2007

Reviewer: **Ruben Mosqueda**



I'll go on record and say that I'm a Stryper fan from the *Soldiers Under Command* album through the most recent *Reborn* album. In fact growing up in a strict Catholic household Stryper were probably the only band that did I didn't get my balls busted over by my mother and father, who at the time had a meltdown over my preference in music. I love Stryper's brilliant ability to blend gospel and hard rock the best example is found their break through album *To Hell with the Devil*.

Stryper reformed back in 2004 and did some selected dates; among them was a show in Puerto Rico in the spring of that year. For some reason the band elected to record a show outside of the states for DVD release. The only reason I can think of is that it was more cost effective to record it there? In any event the audience is pretty large, though by no means as large as some of the photos that appeared on the band's website. The band hasn't sounded better; they still put on a great performance they sound tight like they never went away. I'm very impressed with Michael Sweet's voice which has held up very well and Oz Fox can still tear it up. There a total of 14 tracks in the DVD's main title the bulk are performed superbly for example; "Calling on You," "Free," "To Hell with the Devil," "Honestly," and "Soldiers Under Command" those are staples that the fans demand and they are in there. There a number of songs that haven't aged very well and sound as cheesy as anything from the L.A. Sunset Strip glam scene like; "Reach Out," "Loud and Clear," "You won't be Lonely," and the out of left field inclusion of the holiday favorite "Winter Wonderland." I can understand the inclusion of "Winter Wonderland" if this is a Christmas or holiday DVD or even perhaps if the time in which the show was shot was around the holiday season, but keep in mind this was shot in March of 2004?! This is just weird and uncalled for. While we're on the topic of things wrong with the DVD another thing that I have to point out is that the audience is over

dubbed into the entire performance. They never go away, it's like Stryper are playing in a roman coliseum to a packed house. The crowd noise is pumped in and resonates throughout the performance. Not only is this a nuisance, it takes away from the performance and it's just not just truthful. And Robert Sweet's impression of the late Leon Wilkerson's "Mad Hatter" is comical and a sad at the same time. Instead spending so much time on this onstage nonsense Robert should have been in the studio when this "live" performance was being mixed because his drums sound flat and are lost in the mix. *Greatest Hits: Live In Puerto Rico* is for diehards only. As it turns out I might be a casual fan.

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