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## Stryper: Live in Puerto Rico

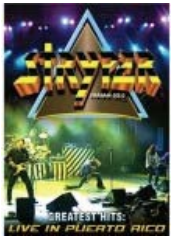
Posted by [Jack T. Ripper](#) on 05/28/2007, 10:18 PM

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### **To Hell with the Devil....**



3

Upon hearing that Stryper had re-formed as a band, my mind immediately took a trip in the 'way back machine' to the mid 80's. I was still new to the Dallas area and was working on the weekends at a church out in Arlington. I was going through a phase where I was listening to a lot of Contemporary Christian music and found myself totally into a group called Stryper. They wore yellow and black spandex ("by his stripes..."), had the glam hair, and rocked out with songs about being believers in Christ. I even went to see them in concert once, and admittedly thought they were very bit as good as any of the more popular hairs bands of the day.

The concert was interesting because I saw just as many screaming girls as I'd see at any rock concert and wondered how the boys in the band handled that kind of attention. I'd heard rumors about backstage parties and how they weren't really all that Christian and used it as a gimmick. However I was able to get backstage at that particular concert and saw the boys and their entourage talking to a lot of the kids... but even better... they were witnessing to them. It was awesome to see, and that solidified Stryper as one of my favorite hair bands of the 80's. I bought all their albums (you know.... those big black discs with grooves and a whole in the middle) and was disappointed when they disbanded a few years later.

I can't say I thought a lot about Stryper over the years, though occasionally I would throw tone of the video taped concerts I had bought into the VCR and crank it up. Then a renewed interest in the band hit me when I started uploading all of my albums onto my computer (in order to convert them to files for my Ipod) and ran across the ones I had. Listening to them again, I had almost forgotten just how much they rocked. So I found it rather ironic that a few short days later I got an email from MVD telling me that a new DVD was coming out with a reunion concert filmed in Puerto Rico. I couldn't request one fast enough.

### *Stryper: Greatest Hits Live in Puerto Rico*

obviously gives us a much older version of the band, but a version that hasn't lost any of its ability to perform. Lead singer Michael Sweet is still able to hit the high notes and drummer Robert Sweet would still beat Tommy Lee any day of the week. Even bassist Timothy Gaines (despite his now short hair) still plays with conviction as does rhythm guitarist Oz Foxx. Their stage set, though pared down from the arenas of their heyday, is adorned with the recognizable yellow and black stripes, though their clothes do not (except for Foxx, who sports a large striped shirt).

Throughout the concert, the band sticks to the hits that made them so famous, and after comparing the sound to my video of their 1989 Japanese tour have determined that they sound every bit as good as they did almost twenty years ago. "Calling on You", "Free", "Soldiers Under Command" and "To Hell with the Devil" are definite standouts, while "Free" and "Honestly" remind the audience what power ballads are supposed to sound like.

The DVD also includes a handful of clips from their 1989 concert, which I was glad to see... but really made me wish they could have included the entire concert (so that I can replace my videotape). The overall quality of the release is pretty good with the sound coming across clearly, but I had to wonder why they opted to use a full screen picture. That was my only disappointment.

### *Stryper: Greatest Hits Live in Puerto Rico*

is a must own for fans of Stryper... and yes I know there are still a out of you out there. But I have no doubt that it would appeal to anyone

who was caught up in the days of 'hair bands' and wanted proof that some of these guys can still rock.

Songs:

Sing Along Song  
Makes Me Want To Sing  
Calling On You  
Free  
More Than A Man  
Caught In The Middle  
You Won't Be Lonely  
Reach Out  
Loud And Clear  
The Way  
Soldiers Under Command  
To Hell With The Devil  
Honestly  
Winter Wonderland

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