

Roctober

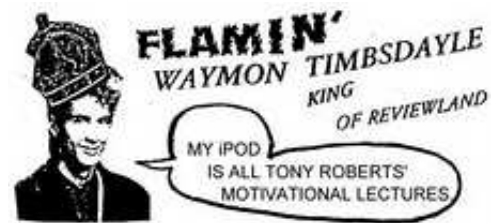
Thursday, March 31, 2011

Phil Manzanera "The Music 1972 - 2008," "Diamond Head"



(www.manzanera.com) Manzanera is a guitar hero to many guitarists, but he clearly played with too much elegance and class to become a household name amongst the air guitar-ing lumpen. As Roxy Music's axman, and an Eno collaborator, Phil (a songwriter as well) can take solace in the undeniable fact that he crafted music that had more influence on the new wave/alternative/underground scenes than all the biggest guitar wankers combined. And he can feel good about getting a nice retrospective box set and archival reissue on the market. The reissue of his 1975 solo debut (a record I've definitely never seen before) is about half instrumentals, and they are OK, but it wasn't like Phil was lead guitarist in a group with wailing solos, so these are really tracks based on nice rhythm guitar structures that could use a little more embellishment than they get here. The vocal tracks, especially the standout, "Big Day," sung by Eno, are much more satisfying. To be clear, everything on here sounds virtuoso and musically posh, it's just easier to dig the vocal stuff. Though two tracks from "Diamond Head" make the retrospective box, "Big Day" does not, so my brother, you gotta buy both. The first two discs

waymon



Roctober Magazine Senior Tastemaker

Roctober Magazine Reviews:

Chicago, IL, United States

These reviews will be featured in forthcoming issues of Roctober Magazine (www.roctober.com). To submit material for review please contact editor@roctober.com or send it to Roctober Magazine 1507 E. 53rd St. #617 Chicago IL 60615. REVIEW POLICIES: We will review EVERYTHING physically submitted, in any format (vinyl, CD, cassette, 8-track, wax cylinder, DVD, VHS, Beta, videogame, book, magazine, zine, cake, bucket of chicken, etc.) For music my kingly tastes make me like vinyl the best and I will probably think you are cooler if you send your release on vinyl. I do review some digital submissions/downloads, but it is not a guarantee. But if you throw it on a cheap CD-R and mail it to me it will definitely be reviewed. For periodicals/zines/comix/magazines we may not review every issue but we will run a new, different review in each issue of Roctober. All reviews will

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contain 25 career spanning tracks, including cuts he played on Roxy, lotsa interesting solo stuff, and "Needles in the Camel's Eye" from "Here Come the Warm Jets" (which I bet you haven't listened to in ages). It ends with a DVD featuring a documentary on PM that I was too exhausted to watch (after hours of satisfying CD listening), but it also has some cool live and promotional stuff from over the years that I was really feeling. Or should I say *Phi*-ling

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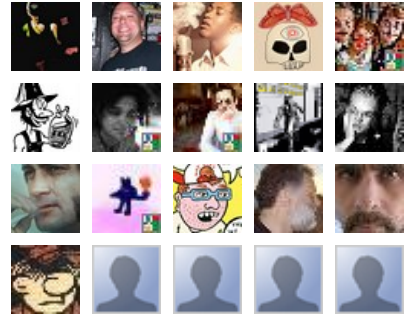
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