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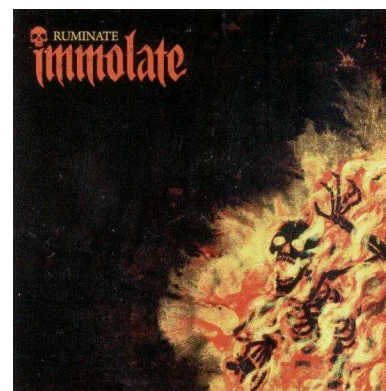
Immolate - Ruminare - CD Review

Immolate – Ruminare

Impedance Records

Review by Colin Diamond

Ever listen to a track off an album and think to yourself... mmm yeah could have left this one off? Well that's the opening track off IMMOLATE's album unfortunately. Things really don't kick off well with the opener 'Heathen'. The vocals are pushed to the back in the mix, the riffs just don't seem to all gel well together and come off sounding a bit patchwork, and the playing, well some of it sounds like half cut 16 year olds in a garage to be honest.



"Well we don't need to hear any more, review over" you might say..... But wait don't go anywhere.

Because then track two kicks in. Now this is more like it! A nice catchy melody; things have sped up some, the vocals are brought forward in the mix, the guitars are tighter and sounding great, and it's just a much better song all round. And the rest of the album continues on from where track two left off. All of them step above the first track. I have no doubt that the guys are playing in a style that is completely intentional on the first track and no half cut 16 year old could come close to them in technical prowess. But the tune just didn't work for me and I think they could have picked a stronger song for the opener.

IMMOLATE hail from Wollongong and their sound is dirty, noisy and punk rock. It's a grizzled beast of a thing with a hangover and three day growth. But that's the charm of them. They do it well. If you like that sound, you will like IMMOLATE. To get a bit more of an idea of where the boys are coming from, they list the following bands as influences; MC5, Motorhead, The Ramones and the Jesus Lizard to name a few.

Apart from the already mentioned first tune (let us speak of it no more), each of the songs display good song writing chops, are catchy and are all just plain good fun. There are lots of group chant vocals on the songs with the other band members chiming in and I can really see these tracks going down well in a live situation with a lot of energy and spark to them. There's no boundaries being pushed in terms of technicality or song structures but that's hardly their intention is it?

Standout tracks for me were the cranking second track, *Hot Heat*, *Intergator* and the closing track, the dirge like *Code* with its vocal refrains living on in my head after the track ended.

The first track was just an anomaly clearly. This is a good album and it comes recommended.

Immolate

<http://www.myspace.com/immolateband>

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<http://www.impedance.com.au/>

Rating: