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Last Updated: November 7, 2011 11:13 AM

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**MICHAEL SCHENKER**  
Temple of Rock (Inakustik)

01. Intro
02. How Long
03. The End Of An Era
04. Saturday Night
05. Fallen Angel
06. Hangin' On
07. With You
08. Miss Claustrophobia
09. Scene Of Crime
10. Lovers Sinfony-Speed
11. Stormin' In
12. Speed
13. Before The Devil Knows You're Dead
14. How Long (Guitar Battle Version)

**3****6.4**

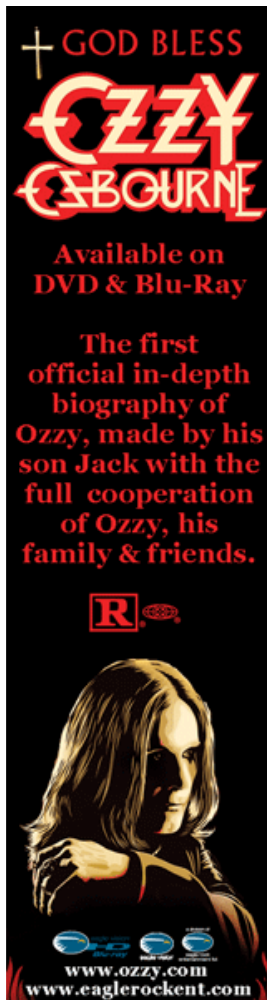
NOT THIS ALBUM

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As regretful as it is to say, it might be time for **Michael Schenker** to hang it up because the songwriting well has run dry, now best exemplified by "**Temple of Rock**". It is a forgettable album that comes off soulless, best efforts notwithstanding.

Yes, the soloing is fine and he's a great guitarist; we already know that and continue to sing his praises for his work in **UFO**, the **SCORPIONS**, and his own **MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP**. But that was then, this is now, and "**Temple of Rock**" is not an instrumental shred album. With a couple of very minor exceptions (e.g. "**Before the Devil Knows You're Dead**" with vocalist **Doogie White**), "**Temple of Rock**" is filled with songs that never reach any higher than mediocre. Occasionally you'll hear a decent riff ("**Fallen Angel**") and/or mildly creative/interesting arrangement ("**Miss Claustrophobia**"), but mostly the songs sound tired, made worse by vocals from **Michael Voss** that are better suited for a **BON JOVI** or **POISON** album, as well as lyrics on songs like "**Saturday Night**" that are just embarrassing.

"**Temple of Rock**" for **Michael Schenker** fans will be the type of album that folks will try to like and keep hoping it'll get better. After a **William Shatner** spoken "**Intro**" (not kidding) "**How Long**" at least serves as a



tolerable, yet generic, opener. So you'll hold on and cross your fingers and arrive at a song like **"The End of an Era"**, sure that you've seen light at the end of the tunnel before catching yourself debating whether the track would be best described as bland power metal or second rate hair metal. A short keyboard solo that would in any other circumstance be considered nothing more than solid ends up a breath of fresh air in an otherwise polluted environment. The ballad **"Without You"** fails and the closing 3 Generations of Guitar Battle Version of **"How Long"** is redemptive of nothing, even with fine performances from **Leslie West** and **Michael Amott**.

That brings us to the other notable point about **"Temple of Rock"**. It is packed with numerous all-star players, including main album-musicians **Herman Rarebell** and **Pete Way**. In addition to **Amott** and **West**, brother **Rudolf Schenker** lends his axe, while the keyboard cast includes **Wayne Findlay** (rounding out the proper album lineup), **Don Airey**, and **Paul Raymond**; the drummers **Carmine Appice**, **Simon Phillips**, **Chris Slade**, and **Brian Tichy**; bassists **Chris Glen** and **Neil Murray**; and vocalists **Robin McAuley** and the aforementioned **Doogie White**. In the way of tribute to a legendary guitarist, the guest list is impressive. Aside from a handful of notable performances though, the additional deck hands can't save a sinking ship.

This one just isn't worth anyone's time or money. More like a molehill of rock, **"Temple of Rock"** is best forgotten, so as not to further tarnish what is for the most part a sterling body of work. At least the **SCORPIONS** left on a high note and **UFO** continues releasing quality albums. Here is to hoping the next **MICHAEL SCHENKER** album is one in which we can all be proud, the guitar god himself included.

- Scott Alisoglu

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COMMENT | #

posted by : [jrud311](#)



10/30/2011 7:17:49 AM

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After seeing Schenker last January in Anaheim at the NAMM show, I was really looking forward to new stuff from him. While I agree that the songwriting well has run dry, this is higher than a 3??? While this new vocalist is very good, I wonder what his songwriting abilities are? Michael needs a good singer that can help him write memorable tunes. He needs to make it more of a band situation than trying to do it

on his own.

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**COMMENT | 'RE: #'**

posted by : laggerlugger

10/31/2011 10:09:04 PM

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he had a good singer in Robin Mccauly but you fan boys said he sold out and he went back to making shitty albums with lousy singers trying to recapture the glory days of UFO. they continued to put out quality music and still sound like UFO without him.nothing he has done since he left them sounds remotley as good as what he did with them or what they have done without him.he is just living off his legacy with the band. hey I bought his first 2 solo when they came out thinking it was going to be like getting 2 UFO records a year,boy was I wrong!

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**COMMENT | 'RE: "RE: #"laggerlugger'**



posted by : schenkerholic

11/2/2011 9:44:25 PM

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Do you just cut and paste your anti schenker rants?

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**COMMENT | '?'**



posted by : Hannemans arm

10/30/2011 7:38:57 AM

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It's hard to believe that blabbermouth users rate this piece of shit higher than LULU. What a bunch of knuckleheads.

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**COMMENT | 'RE: "?"'**



posted by : ALL THINGS METAL

10/30/2011 8:07:14 AM

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This album is not a piece of shit by any stretch. BTW "Saturday Night" kicks major ass. He's got Herman Rarebell & Pete Way on it. That song alone is better than all of "PuPu."

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**COMMENT | 'PuPu'**



posted by : ALL THINGS METAL

10/30/2011 8:08:50 AM

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LuLu is good for a Lou Reed album when look at Metallica as a backing band, but it should called PuPu when referreing to it as Metallica or 'Tallica record.

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**COMMENT | 'I...'**



posted by : Slaanesh

10/30/2011 10:46:54 AM

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...give it a ten, because Scotti wanne bring AN ALBUM WITH SONGS TO THE SAME LEVEL WITH THE GENERIC SHIT IN LULU - please check yourself bevor you reck yourself, or rate Lulu lower...

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**COMMENT | 'Not a bad album in the least...'**

posted by : [RustyMetalHead](#)  
10/30/2011 8:13:57 PM  
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....I enjoy this new release by the mad German axe master. Just another quality release really. It is no where near a 3, not under a 6 rating....

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**COMMENT | 'Love Schenker, but ...'**



posted by : [hammer34](#)  
10/31/2011 8:06:05 AM  
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even all this help can't deliver a solid album. Yes, he can still play great as can all of the all-star cast he assembles, but the songs are just not there. Not expecting to hear cutting edge music or even anything relevant to the current day, but even as nostalgia rock these songs are pretty weak. And it's been a long time since we have heard any really great songs from him.

The original string of MSG albums ranged from borderline great (MSG) to passable (Built To Destroy). And then I thought his 1st attempt at changing things up with McCauley/Schenker (Perfect Timing) produced the most consistent set of quality songs in his entire solo career. A little more slick and not as much the guitar showcases that the early MSG material was, but really catchy, engaging songs.

Since then I always take a listen to everything he puts out, hoping for a lightning strike, but songwriting-wise he hasn't produced anything compelling, or that holds a candle to those early albums IMO (including the follow up with McCauley---I thought Save Yourself was a big drop-off from Perfect Timing).

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**COMMENT | 'love schenker, but'**

posted by : [hooplehead](#)  
10/31/2011 11:14:09 AM  
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yeah this record does nothing for me and i've been a huge michael fan since the early ufo days. he definitely needs a better songwriter with him. i disagree with most who thought his partnership with mccauley was very good. i found it weak. his 1st two records after that "written in the sand" and "unforgiven" were very good and miles better. since then outside of his instrumentals and his two cover records with pattison his records have been average including his reunion with barden although that was much better than this record. at least he still kills it live.

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**COMMENT | 'RE: "love schenker, but"'**

posted by : [long in the tooth](#)  
11/5/2011 1:18:38 PM  
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I agree that the McCauley stuff was just ok and in my opinion, Michael hasn't done

anything "great" since "Assault Attack".

I believe the reason is the state of the music industry and his substance abuse problems. After Michael left UFO he was recording and touring with world class musicians and for the last twenty five years has been reduced to recording and touring with low budget singers and hasn't had a solid song writing partner/team, or a great producer to put classic albums together like Ron Nevison or Martin Birch did.

If he had a group like Kelly Keeling, Shane Galas, Paul Raymond, and a kick ass bass player like Pete Way was in the early days of UFO, and Mutt Lange or Brendan O'Brien producing, he would be putting out great albums again.

Oh, and he needs to dump the whole guitar rig he's been using and go back to Gibson flying V's and fifty watt Marshall amps with a crybaby wah. His guitar sound is terrible now!

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 **COMMENT | #**

posted by : [LadyBoy of Death](#)  
10/31/2011 4:26:30 PM  
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With all the talent he has on this album, I'm surprised he didn't have Lou Reed guest on it, too.

Oh wait, never mind, he wanted talent. That's why.

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 **COMMENT | #**

posted by : [General Ceel](#)  
10/31/2011 6:59:45 PM  
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I don't know, it seems like a pretty soild rock album to me. Its not ground breaking, but its not crap. Its middle of the road I guess, deserves a 5.

These days, about everything, it seems like most people either gush or totally bash the issue at hand. I don't think it has to be that way. Some things are simply just "okay," and there is nothing wrong with that.

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 **COMMENT | 'Good record'**

posted by : [RiotAct666](#)  
10/31/2011 9:18:59 PM  
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Has alot of great guest on it. Schenker's playing on it is great. just wish Gary Barden was singer for the band though. oh well.....

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 **COMMENT | 'wow'**

posted by : [duperton](#)  
11/2/2011 11:12:31 AM  
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Just awful gave it a 1

Rate comment:  1 |  3[Reply](#)**COMMENT | 'An amazing record!!! The best of MSG since 1981?'**posted by : [Stillofthenight.75](#)  
11/2/2011 2:18:29 PM[Report Abuse](#)



I don't understand some critics. My only possible conclusion is that a lot of people never heard a Michael Schenker album; maybe just some UFO hits. I know very well MSG discography, and I think this record is one of the finest and strongest works on Michael's career. His solos are amazing, passionate and emotional, he never repeats one lick; also his riffs are so inspired, they all sound like classic lines! IMO Temple of Rock is a box of surprises. I think that Michael Voss is a very adequate singer, and for sure a big compliment in composition and production. I found this record totally addictive, an atemporary classic. It's my favourite LP of the year, with Whitesnake's Forevermore.

Rate comment:  2 |  1[Reply](#)**COMMENT | '...Scotti, how could you?'**posted by : [Stillofthenight.75](#)  
11/2/2011 2:44:36 PM[Report Abuse](#)

By the way, I don't know Scott, but for me he loses all his credibility with this review. He rates the album with 3. The users rate with 6,5, even after reading the atrocious review. That proves that someone should do better homework, and listen in a serious way to an album before doing the critics. "A big power means a big responsibility", you know...

Rate comment:  2 |  1[Reply](#)**COMMENT | 'Scott Alisoglu has no clue!!'**posted by : [ironmaiden777](#)  
11/4/2011 12:00:55 AM[Report Abuse](#)

Don't understand the reviewers' point of view at all. It is a strong album. I guess this is why the state of the music industry is in such shambles. Those in the record industry wouldn't know good music if it bit them on the ASS.


Rate comment:  2 |  2[Reply](#)**COMMENT | 'RE: "Scott Alisoglu has no clue!!"'**posted by : [flashrockinman](#)  
11/4/2011 10:52:38 AM[Report Abuse](#)

Yes, this is definitely a very strong album. Possibly his best since the Unforgiven or maybe even the early MSG albums.

Rate comment:  0 |  2[Reply](#)**COMMENT | 'missing Gary Barden'**posted by : [SweetCheetah](#)  
11/5/2011 4:27:12 PM[Report Abuse](#)

The guitar is awesome and creative as always. I just think this Voss guy isn't as good

as the past vocalists he's brought on. "Saturday Night" sounds like something Selinna Gomez or the Jonas Brothers would rock. I won't give it as low as a "3" but a step down from "In the midst of beauty".

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