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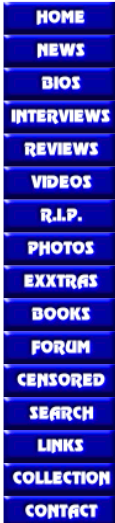
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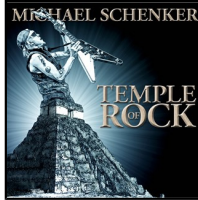
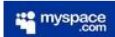
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MICHAEL SCHENKER TEMPLE OF ROCK

Released September 23, 2011 (Inakustik)

CD Track List:

01. Intro
02. How Long
03. Fallen Angel
04. Hanging On
05. The End Of An Era
06. Miss Claustrophobia
07. With You
08. Before The Devil Knows You're Dead
09. Storming In
10. Scene Of Crime
11. Saturday Night
12. Lover's Symphony
13. Speed
14. How Long (3 Generations Guitar Battle version)
15. Remember
16. Miss Claustrophobia (radio edit)

Band:

Michael Voss - vocals
Michael Schenker - guitar
Pete Way - bass
Herman Rarebell - drums
Wayne Findlay - keyboards

Additional Musicians:

Robin McAuley - vocals
Doogie White - vocals
William Shatner - vocals
Rudolph Schenker - guitar
Leslie West - guitar
Chris Glenn - bass
Neil Murray - bass
Carmine Appice - drums
Chris Slade - drums
Brian Tichy - drums
Simon Phillips - drums
Don Airey - keyboards
Paul Raymond - keyboards

Production:

Produced by **Michael Voss**.

Review:

Michael Schenker's move to enlist a collection of his friends to write and record a solo effort after releasing a great studio album with **Gary Barden** in 2008 called *In The Midst Of Beauty* -- and following it up with the acoustic *Gypsy Lady* in 2009 and a live DVD in 2010 -- is baffling. One would think that it would be best to strike while the iron is hot, but by releasing what in essence is a solo effort seems to break any momentum that he had gained thus far.

Schenker's new album is entitled *Temple Of Rock* and it is produced by the singer of this project, former **Casanova** and **Mad Max** member **Michael Voss**. Yes, the title is very cliché and unimaginative, I didn't much care for the title *Tales Of Rock 'N' Roll* either, but it's the music that counts. There is no **Gary Barden** in sight on *Temple Of Rock*, but there are guests galore -- making appearances are drummers **Carmine Appice**, **Herman Rarebell**, **Brian Tichy**, **Simon Phillips**, and **Chris Slade**; bassists **Pete Way** and **Neil Murray**; guitarists **Wayne Findlay**, **Rudolf Schenker**, **Michael Amott**, and **Leslie West**; singers **Robin McAuley** and **Doogie White**; and finally keyboardist **Paul Raymond**. This album is loaded with talent, but the question is how this all measures up musically -- because as we know from the various *Deadline/Cleopatra* compilations that exist, big names don't always translate into great albums.

Though not **MSG** material, **Michael Schenker's** riffs are still there and his playing is great, even on filler tracks like "How Long" and "Fallen Angel" (this one is the weakest lyrically on the entire album). "How Long" is revisited again as a '3 Generations Guitar Battle' version with the Mad Axeman joined by **Mountain's Leslie West** and **Arch Enemy's Michael Amott** -- and the odd trio duke it out with great results, however this version would have benefited greatly if it was left as an instrumental. The standouts on *Temple Of Rock* are "Miss Claustrophobia", which contains one of the better vocal tracks from **Michael Voss** with a big chorus and hook, "Before The Devil Knows You're Dead", a very memorable track featuring **Doogie White**, and "Lover's Symphony", an incredible song (despite the title) that features former **MSG** singer **Robin McAuley**. The pairing of **Schenker** and **McAuley** still works, and these guys have unfinished business after the poor effort on their last **MSG** studio album in the early '90. Finally, "Storming In" represents a classic **Schenker** track complete with wailing guitars and power riffing that's complimented by a killer performance by **Voss**.

Is *Temple Of Rock* an essential purchase? No. It does have its moments, but is recommended for the die-hard **Schenker** fans and completists only.

www.michaelschenkerhimself.com - www.inakustik.com

Reviewed by Ruben Mosqueda for [Sleaze Roxx](#), October 2011

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