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**MICHAEL SCHENKER – TEMPLE OF ROCK LIVE IN EUROPE – INAKUSTIK**

Is this the first instance of a CD coming with a dedicated insert that is an advertisement? The name of the advertiser pitching electronic goods is the same as the band's record company. As such, the tie-in is obvious, but regrettable and tacky. One supposes that this is partly done to address the decreasing sales of album. That, however, would be ironic. For if sales are falling then logically the advertising will be met with less and less eyeballs.

As for the album and the music itself, one is in for a shock. Readers might know that MSG's One Night At Budokan is my favourite live album. The first three MSG studio albums and the made-in-Japan live recording are fantastic instances of classic hard rock. Then things went south and MSG has been a listless ignorable band that has nowhere near matched its early standards. The studio album, Temple Of Rock, itself is an example of a waste of space. This album, however, proves Michael Schenker still has it in him to deliver a great album. Perhaps he is best suited to live albums or that those early songs are just so good. Whatever the case, this album is amazingly good even if it does not feature early singer Gary Barden who not too long ago was on and off touring and collaborating with Schenker. In Barden's place is vocal mercenary Doogie White, who does a fabulous job on Disc 1, and Michael Voss, on Disc 2, who also does a good job. The two discs focus on the man's early repertoire, as well as the UFO staples (Michael was in UFO once), as well a couple of surprising Scorpions (Michel was in Scorpions once) songs, namely Blackout, Rock You Like A Hurricane, Holiday and Coast To Coast. Scorpions does not play half these songs any longer. Speaking of which, Scorpions' Herman Rarebell and Rudolf Schenker appear on stage on select songs.

One more things Michael is quoted as referring to this album as, "The Roofing Of The Era Of Hand Made Rock." Either Michael is still keeping his dealers busy and rich or Germans should really desist using Google Translate. It (evidently) just does not work.

Temple Of Rock is a worthwhile endeavour including fine vocalizing, real attentive guitars, solid bass and drums and a band that rocks hard and does so intently. – Ali "The Metallian"