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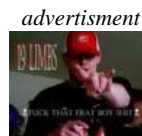
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Interview with Wes Borland of Black Light Burns (ex-Limp Bizkit) on the main page **NOW!** (*Devin Townsend on Tuesday*).



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Band:Marillion
Album:Somewhere Else
Record Company:MVD
Writer: Ogg the Barbarian
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Flash back, if ye will , to MTV and the year 1985. Have I lost half my readers right there, now? Most I would think might have been in diapers or even kindergarten, some still a twinkle in their father's lust ful eye. Ah well, I go on.

In heavy rotation in the summer of 1985, videos for: Billy Idol: Eyes Without a Face; Motley Crue:Home Sweet Home (although Looks That Kill was still drawing heavy airplay, as was Flesh for Fantasy and White Wedding by the aforementioned Idol). Also of note, Def Leppard was drawing decent airplay as well. Sounds not so bad, eh?

Juxtapose it against what was receiving the bulk of MTV airplay that year: Soft Cell, Godley and Cream, Tears for Fears, Big Country, Dire Straights, Peter Gabriel, Genesis, and a video for EVERY track of the Sports album from Huey Lewis and the News. In that light, things look not so heavy for the metal hungry viewer, do they? So add "Kayleigh" by Marillion.

"Kayleigh" earned a very special sort of disdain from this old warrior back in the day, for it's outright perverse deception of the metal-hungry viewer. It opens with a shot of a huge Marshal stack and rows upon promising rows of effects pedals-- and yet these pedals are evidently just unneeded props, because "Kayleigh" is a dyed-clean, jangly pop ballad less memorable than "Take On Me" by Ah-Ha. What rage it drew from me, brothers-- they looked like a heavy band throughout the video, but had all the explosive power of a weasel fart. For two decades, I avoided any compilation album that combined the terms "hard rock / heavy metal" and the band Marillion. Not heavy. Not hard. Not metal.

So am I to report a pleasant surprise with this new album "Somewhere Else", lovingly bestowed upon me by the monkey gods? It's been 22 years of prog rock and a new vocalist from their first offensive offering--gotta be something there for them to survive that long, correct? It's good, I think, that Marillion is still around in the midst of the much-anticipated Genesis reunion, because Genesis I'm sure needs an opening band that will make them sound rockin'.

Perhaps I'm too jaded by the bitter taste left in my mouth 22 years ago to give this disc a fair review. Ok--I suppose when measuring "Somewhere Else" against similar tepid, banal pop acts, it's not the worst piece of shit in the genre. Fair enough?

I admitted to looking for some point of reference, of redemption for this disc before I thoroughly razed it, so I sought comparisons for Marillion's contemporary on the internet. I found them categorically lumped with prog rock bands like the aforementioned Genesis, Yes, King Crimson and Gentle Giant. Whereas I agree with Genesis, I am very familiar with Yes and Gentle Giant, and both bands are more musically accomplished than anything Marillion has to offer, both today and yesterday. King Crimson? Remember, they wrote 21st Century Schizoid Man, which on paper is

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already heavier than anything Marillion is capable of doing, before even one note is played.

So why not lovingly look at them in a context of "classic rock"? Well because, Foghat, Grand Funk and anything ever played on the soundtrack to That 70s Show be more rockin' than this.

In summary, when I have a hankering for lukewarm chick rock, I can play this disc. Except that my girlfriend has Matchbox 20 cds that I'd rather listen to.

DON'T BOTHER.

And now as I stomp out onto the vicious howling tundra to rid myself of the jangling pest ilence the cruel monkey gods have inflicted upon me, it occurs to me: somethings' gotta die.

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