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REVIEW

Music Review - Exciter - *O.T.T*

Written by [Mirza Gazic](#)
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Thrash metal isn't the only classic metal genre that has experienced a massive resurgence in the last few years. Melodic but heavy '80s old school speed and traditional heavy metal and its own brand of young upstarts have not gone unnoticed either: tight denim and vests covered in one of the holiest of metal manifests, the patch, are all over the place at the moment.

The revival of thrash has made it stronger and more powerful than ever, so now it is time for trad metal to gain its credibility again. Bands like Canada's Cauldron or Sweden's Wolf, Enforcer and Bullet are flying the flag for their more melodic inspirations and it's as good a time as any to have some news from grizzly old troopers like Exciter to remind everybody where the young ones got it from.

I'll be completely honest and say that "Exciter" or *O.T.T* as this album is also known, is in no way a perfect re-release of an '80s heavy metal recording; it was already done about a decade ago and the same package is pretty much available this time too. The old, dusty and muffled production is still intact so not much has been done to boost the sound of it. The volume is, quite frankly, annoyingly low throughout and all the qualities don't shine through, but there is no need to be completely negative about this.

The songs are top notch heavy metal and it is certainly a positive occurrence that one of the classics of the genre is getting a revival. *O.T.T* is definitely not one-dimensional; there are speedy songs like opener "Scream Bloody Murder," which is heavy on adrenalin and unsurprisingly brings to mind Judas Priest's finest guitar shredding. You get slow, groovy numbers such as "O.T.T" and the chugging "Enemy Lines" with their rolling tempos and anthemic songs like "I Wanna be King" where the singer gets to flex his vocal prowess. The hallmarks of a good metal album are all there.

One slight criticism is directed at the length of the songs. A few of them should be at least one minute shorter because that way this disc would have delivered more of a lasting punch. This, along with the fact that the tame production wasn't injected with some more juice, brings the impact down.

Don't ignore *O.T.T* based on these minor faults though. It is still way north in the quality stakes than a lot of metal currently out there.

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