

**EXCITER – Same – MAGNETIC AIR/MVD****70/100**

This is a re-release of Exciter's 1988 self-titled album, which was originally issued by Maze. This version was reissued by the band's Magnetic Air Records – as O.T.T. incidentally – and is now picked up for distribution by MVD and deservedly so. Exciter circa 1988 is trying to recapture the magic of its first two albums, 1983's Heavy Metal Maniac and 1984's Violence And Force simultaneous to the introduction of its new singer and the band's expansion to a quartet, with a good degree of success. By this juncture, any talk of rivalry between Ottawa's Exciter and the likes of Slayer and Metallica had pretty much died down, but the gang has some killer songs here nonetheless.

The album kicks off with Scream Bloody Murder, which is a classic Exciter song with an exceptionally brilliant guitar solo. This is a great way to start any album and from there it is off to the races. Notable songs are the screechy vocals of Rob Malnati, which are almost as, er, exciting as Dan Beehler's. His screams of banshee were too much for some, but only the Johnny-come-lately of metal denies the exhilaration embedded in them. Songs like Dying To Live and O.T.T. have an odd early Loudness flavour, with the former showing some good riffing action. Ready To Rock, not unsurprisingly, has some hard rock tendencies reminding of the L.A. scene of the '80s, while I Wanna Be King again provides room for a great guitar lead. The speed metal band goes slow on several songs, but fans will find loads of up-tempo riffing on this, as in on any, Exciter album.

Exciter was always heavy, fast, original and neatly tucked in its own corner of the heavy metal scene. This album, surely, is one of those under-rated and underexposed outings that more people should pick up and discover no matter whether looking at classic metal or searching for the origins of the underground. This album, however, has been reissued three times at least and all, except for the original record, feature the tenth track Termination. As such, those who have bought this previously certainly need not do so again unless for the need of a different cover artwork. – Ali "The Metallian"

<http://www.metallian.com>