

DIAMOND HEAD



DIAMOND HEAD

Borrowed Time

Canterbury

(re-issues)



Metal Mind

Diamond Head, known to most of my generation, as the band that wrote "Am I Evil?", one of 'lica's biggest cover songs among fans, is being treated to Metal Mind's reissue series (the gold discs limited to 2000 copies). Now I had heard the original version of "Am I Evil?" before, but I had never really heard a full Diamond Head album until I received these two discs from Goz to review. These are DH's first two official full length albums released in 1982 and 83 respectively and were the albums that cemented their hold in the whole NWOBHM (New Wave of British Heavy Metal) movement that influenced so many bands in the 80's and still do to this day.

With all this being said, Diamond Head is a pretty standard hard rock/heavy metal band that, had they not been formed in the UK, would probably have become a part of the LA Metal scene back in the 80's. They definitely have that hair metal sound to their songs, albeit without all the makeup, but their sound is also rooted in 70's rock like Thin Lizzy and Led Zeppelin which gives them a definite advantage over that scene. The songs themselves are well-crafted and played but honestly, nothing I can really get excited about. Had I gotten into this band when I was in my early teenage years I might appreciate them more but I honestly have to say, aside from "Am I Evil?" there isn't much more that sticks with me after repeated listenings except for the song "Borrowed Time". Another thing that took me awhile to get adjusted to is the sound of the production, it sounds too thin and trebly. Now I know these guys are legends in the NWOBHM scene, so they get my respect there, but I just can't embrace them the same way I embraced Budgie!

There are bonus tracks on both discs (some live, some studio) and *Borrowed Time* contains an insightful June 1982 interview about the beginnings of the band as told by founding members Sean Harris And Colin Kimberly and *Canterbury* contains an interview with Sean Harris that is also interesting to hear. Some of the bonus tracks on *Borrowed Time* ("Trick Or Treat", "Dead Reckoning", "Shoot Out The Lights", and "In The Heat Of The Night") sound like they were recorded directly from the vinyl copy and this definitely takes away from quality of the tracks, although die-hard Diamond Head fans would probably overlook this fact because of their rarity.

I would recommend picking up *Borrowed Time* over *Canterbury* as the latter is a poppier version of the band and personally, I find it a bit boring.

C -Matt Smith