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## Court In The Act

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## Satan - Court In The Act

Long-awaited reissue of seminal UK band's first album.

by [Jim Kaz](#)

**February 24, 2009** - It's pretty safe to say that any black metal band worth its sulfur would kill for the rights to use the namesake of its infernal master. But much to the chagrin and outright confusion of metal diehards for the past 25 years, the name "**Satan**" has already been taken by a relatively obscure little band from Newcastle, England that played a primordial version of power metal, with nothing especially dark about it at all.

It was a pretty brazen moniker indeed, especially for a band that eschewed animal sacrifices and corpse paint for colorful gear and busy, upbeat musical arrangements. On top of that, unlike hordes of black metal bands that'll go to the depths of Hades to see their artistic visions take shape, Satan lacked the simple conviction even use its name for more than two consecutive albums! All that aside, the band's 1983 opus *Court In the Act* still holds up quite well today and stands as one of the more notable releases in the all-important New Wave of British Heavy Metal canon. Originally released on Neat Records (home to **Venom**, Raven and other NWOBHM pioneers), the album met with a decent amount of buzz and critical fanfare upon its original release.

For the most part, *Court In the Act* is closer in style to **Judas Priest**, **Iron Maiden** and dare I say, even the first **Def Leppard** album than anything remotely black metal. Songs such as "Trial By Fire," "Broken Treaties," "Blades of Steel" and "Hunt You Down" are solid, traditional-metal nuggets bordering on thrash at times, but with sturdy riffs and multifaceted arrangements. The dual guitar work of priest devotees Steve Ramsey and Russ Tippins is also quite effective. The only real downside is vocalist Brian Ross's one-dimensional delivery, with the occasional half-baked scream thrown in to compete with his contemporaries. And the production is pretty flat, as it was with several other Neat releases of the day. But, you can hear the hunger and enthusiasm of a young band just on the cusp of something bigger; or so they hoped.

After *Court In the Act*, Ross would depart, and in one helluva bizarre move, the band would change its name to Blind Fury and release the album *Out Of Reach* in 1985, casting aside the significant momentum Satan had gained up to that point. When that didn't pan out, the band got another new singer--named Michael Jackson, no less--and became Satan once more, releasing the uneven EP *Into the Future* and LP *Suspended Sentence*, both of which were largely met with indifference. Before long, Satan would put away its pitchfork for good, taking the name with it, thus precluding any angry Norwegians from using it. Pity, that.

This stellar reissue comes remastered, with its killer album-cover art faithfully restored in a plush digipack.

## Download Worthy:

1. "Trial By Fire"
2. "Broken Treaties"
3. "Hunt You Down"
4. "Alone In the Dark"



## Details ↑

Artist:  
**Satan**  
Release

Digital: J  
Genre:  
Metal  
Explicit  
No  
Label:  
**Metal M**

## Ratings

**8**  
Gr



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out of 10

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I've never actually heard of this band. All in all, I don't think Satan is that sought after of a name. However, just because one relatively unknown band used a name before doesn't mean another band won't. If you look at metal archives, there apparently have been four other bands (all black... [\[+\] Full Comment](#)

Posted by: [galder](#) on February 25, 2009 09:34 PDT

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Whooh! Newcastle my hometown got mentioned on ign lol and this is a very good review of a very underated album

Posted by: [GigaskarfesArmadillo](#) on February 25, 2009 09:11 PDT

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Satan seems like a pretty cool band. I don't have very much Heavy Metal in my collection, so I should hear them sometime.

Posted by: [X-pert74](#) on February 25, 2009 00:59 PDT

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This is a great album!

Blind Guardian does an awesome cover of Trial By Fire, for those BG fans who have heard that song before but didn't know it was a cover.

Posted by: [deltawing12](#) on February 24, 2009 23:41 PDT

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In my lecture earlier we watched some Kenneth Anger films, some quite interesting representations of Satanism in those.

Anyway, that album does sound interesting! Could possibly sound a bit like Angel Witch judging by the description, which is a great thing. Will have to try and check... [\[+\] Full Comment](#)

Posted by: [Blood\\_Falcon](#) on February 24, 2009 18:25 PDT

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