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When Death Comes

Artillery

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Review

by Phil Freeman

Underrated Danish thrashers **Artillery** have made an impressive comeback on this disc, their first studio release since 1999's *B.A.C.K.* They've obviously got lots of support from their label, Metal Mind -- the band's entire prior discography was collected in a 2007 box set, *Through the Years*, which also included tons of bonus tracks. On this disc, the band's core -- the guitar-playing **Stytzer** brothers, **Michael** and **Morten** -- remain, but longtime vocalist **Flemming Rönnsdorf** has been replaced by **Søren Nico Adamsen**, a change that had some of the band's longtime fans worried. Fortunately, he's a terrific addition to the group, a mid-range singer (neither a growler nor a **Rob Halford**-esque shrieker) who may remind some of former **Anthrax** vocalist **Joey Belladonna**, especially when the group's thrash riffing becomes particularly '80s-esque. Which it does quite a bit. **Artillery** is not a band that's changed with the times -- they're still doing exactly what they did at the beginning of their career. "Delusions of Grandeur" offers some variation from the band's head-down, high-speed riffing style, but even the acoustic guitar melody that dominates this song is fast and intricate. "Not a Nightmare" starts off slow and doomy, but it's a bait-and-switch, as the pummeling begins soon enough. "Damned Religion" is another slow one, sounding almost like **Heaven & Hell** as **Adamsen** attempts **Ronnie James Dio**-esque bombast, with mixed results. One of the best things about *When Death Comes*, though, is the powerful production and mixing; every instrument is clear and thunderous, especially **Peter Thorslund**'s bass. This is a quality disc recommended to any metalhead, not just thrash diehards.

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Album

When Death Comes

Rating

★★★★☆

Release Date

Jun 16, 2009

Label

Metal Mind

Genre

Pop/Rock

AMG Album ID

R 1580967

Corrections to this Entry?

Releases

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #	Edition
2009	CD	Metal Mind	1280	Bonus Tracks

Other Editions

Edition
Bonus Tracks

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