

DETRITUS

PESTILENCE – MIND REFLECTIONS (REISSUE) (B) Roadrunner/Metal Mind/MVD, 2007

16 tracks, RT: 69:56, multimedia section

[<http://www.pestilence.fan.pl/>]

[<http://www.myspace.com/pestilence1>]

[<http://www.myspace.com/consumingimpulse>]

[<http://www.mvdb2b.com/>]

[<http://www.metalmind.com.pl/>]

[<http://www.myspace.com/metalmindproductions>]

[<http://www.metalopolis.pl/>]

[<http://www.roadrunnerrecords.com/>]

Can't believe I let this band through the cracks all these years. I have been a Death Metal fan since the late '80s early '90s, I even have some of Marten van Drunen's other bands like Asphyx and Comecon, yet I never really gave Pestilence a proper listen and it is a shame. They deserve to be put up there with the greats, such as Entombed, Morbid Angel, Death... Pestilence keep things above the pack by mixing in a jazz/fusion sound to the Florida death metal scene that Roadrunner was known for. They kind of have the groove and vocal stylings of Obituary, with a much more technical guitar sound. During their four album existence, Martin van Drunen sang on MALLEUS MALEFICARUM and CONSUMING IMPULSE, and Patrick Mamelì sang on TESTIMONY OF THE ANCIENTS and SPHERES. Although both vocalists have a similar sound that kept the music sounding like the same band, Patrick's vocals are a bit more tortured and similar to the Obituary sound while van Drunen's style is a bit more clean (in a Lemmy sort of way). But without being told, I would have thought it was the same vocalist. It is not the vocals that make Pestilence stand out though it is the amazing musicianship. In songs like "Twisted Truth" you get your groove laden metal dose, but entwined inside is some fantastic guitar work you would expect out of their more standard metal brothers in bands like Iron Maiden, Metallica and so on. "Parricide" gives you a thrash intro that rivals the Bay Area bests, mixing in a tight solo right before the blast beats hit you and plow you over. If you were one of those like me who missed out on Pestilence in the past, or you were just slow on accepting the Death Metal scene in general, this "best of" is a good way to get a dose of these giants without picking up the whole collection which I am sure is hard to find these days.

- Paul Luri (PLuri@...)