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Pestilence - Mind Reflections

PESTILENCE Mind Reflections: The Best of Pestilence (Roadrunner/Metal Mind)

Though not as celebrated, Pestilence hails from the same late-80s/early 90s death metal movement as innovators Atheist and Cynic. Like those notables, the Netherlands-based band wasn't afraid to mix jazz fusion elements into its brutal crunge, helping to evolve extreme metal towards a more technical future. (Also like Atheist and Cynic, Pestilence also partook of the services of bassist Tony Choy.) Interestingly, this best-of takes only one song from **Spheres**, the group's most jazz-influence record, but otherwise cherrypicks three songs each from the band's three other disks, and adds some rare live tracks for seasoning. Pestilence clearly wasn't the technical marvel of its fellows, but the songs here present a well above-average death metal act that incorporated melody and subtlety into its furious thrash. Fans of the style who've never heard Pestilence should be pleased. *Michael Toland*

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