



1340mag.com



CD Reviews

DVD Reviews

Book Reviews

concerts

Interviews

Staff

Archives

Contact

Home

340MagBooks.com

Links

Editorial



Sadus  
 Chemical Exposure/Swallowed in Black/A  
 Vision of Misery (reissues)  
 Metal Mind/Roadrunner  
<http://www.sadus.tk>

This Site Best  
Viewed in  
Firefox



To this day Sadus remain one of the most important thrash bands to have ever exploded out of the Bay Area. Unfortunately, outside of die hard thrash circles the band garnered little attention. Despite their lack of fame however Sadus are easily one of the most talented bands ever to don dog tags bearing the name “metal” and one of only a handful of the genre to be alive and well in 2007. Metal Mind Productions have reissued Sadus first three, and arguably their most influential, albums and fans that missed the boat the first time need to pay special attention this time around.

\* Please note that these albums are all sold separately even though they are reviewed together here.

340Mag on  
Myspace



The journey begins with the fats and furious battle cry of Chemical Exposure. This album was originally self-released under the name Illusions. A cassette only release prior to being picked up by Roadrunner saw the album’s name change, and eventually it’s release as Chemical Exposure worldwide by said label. This album makes for a hot debate because Sadus never sound quite as fast again and the sheer raw terror of songs like “Certain Death,” “Fight or Die,” and “Torture” is insane. This is the sound of a young band with nothing to lose and a huge chip on their shoulder. Through in some powerhouse musical skill and a knack for writing songs that can go at the speed of light and still keep your attention and you have the beginning of something great. Every self-respecting fan of speed/thrash metal, and dare I say black metal as well as the band was obviously an influence on that scene, should own this album. If you don’t, then you don’t know your history. Shame on you. The reissue contains tow bonus tracks from Sadus’ original demo, Death to Posers, as and added treat.

Swallowed in Black was the next in line for this amazing band. The vocals get a little deeper, the songs get a little slower, and undeniably the production values improve immensely. Swallowed in Black never manages to capture the raw energy of Chemical Exposure but it serves as a showcase for two of the band’s finer points. First off it provides the listener with their first real look into the band’s songwriting prowess. Songs like “Last Abide” and “Powers of Hate” take the band’s sound to new levels in regards to songwriting and you can tell they are no longer the “kids” that made Chemical Exposure. Secondly the band’s talent becomes even more obvious on Swallowed in Black. The soloing alone is amazing but when you add in a much more effective use of dynamics and atmosphere (see “Black” and “In Your Face”) and you have one hell of an album. Despite how different this is from Chemical Exposure, this is where the groundwork is laid for the longevity that Sadus has experienced.

Which brings us to the final reissue in the bunch, A Vision of Misery. By this point, Sadus had found their feet and become not only one of speed/thrash/metal’s premier bands, but also one of the cornerstones of the black and death metal movements that were starting to spread by this

time (early nineties). A Vision of Misery is probably the band's most accomplished work. No other album (although there isn't a bad one in the bunch) from Sadus really destroys like this one does. "Through the Eyes of Greed" boast guitar work so powerful and screams so haunting that the mighty Dave Mustaine would have even looked twice when he heard it. "Deceptive Perceptions" grinds with an almost sludge like appeal that borders on doom in spots. "Machines" and "Slave to Misery" are superb as well and the sheer musicianship is likely to leave any fan of hard music speechless at the end. These are damn good songs and if you look at the bigger picture, this is one of the few speed/thrash albums that is truly timeless. I opened this album in the early nineties and again in 2007 and it doesn't sound dated at all. This is the stuff of legend.

So there you have it, the early works of Sadus brought back to life for your enjoyment one more time. If you haven't heard Sadus before now is the time to check them out. Fans of Testament, early Megadeth, Mayhem, and Heathen should not miss out on these reissues.

Key Tracks:

Reviewed by Mark Fisher

[Return to CD Reviews](#)

This page is best viewed in Firefox or Internet Explorer. If you are using Netscape the page may not load correctly.

All content © 2007 by 1340mag.com.

All rights reserved. Please contact us if you wish to reproduce any articles, reviews or interviews.

CD Covers and band pictures are © Copyright by their respective artist or record label and are used by permission.

1340mag.com designed and maintained by Jim McDonald & Mark Rounds.