

[Reviews](#) : [Albums](#) : [Toxik](#), "World Circus [reissue]"

Toxik

World Circus [reissue]

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Toxik, "World Circus [reissue]"

The first thing that grabbed my attention with this album when I saw it years ago was the rad-as-hell cover drawn by the legendary Ed Repka, of a man holding the red button for a bomb outside a circus tent - awesome! So when I got the opportunity to have it sent to me to review, I was psyched. Listening to several times through though, while I have a hard time saying anything bad about it I can't quite bring myself into it.

New York's Toxik brings us 41 minutes of shiny, polished and upbeat thrash that sounds like it's straight out of the streets of LA. Right away you will notice the ear shattering vocals of Tad Leger who, according to the lyric booklet, surpasses even Rob Halford in the high range of his voice - very impressive, but I feel he lacks range and the high end gets a little overkill over time. Very talented shredders on this album, manifested best in the intro and song combination of 47 Seconds Of Sanity and Count Your Blessings, and very catchy riffs for which they've traded in some venom. If you like your thrash fast, catchy, and melodic, and you're not turned off by a super high register singer, you'll eat this album up.

Personally I was a little underwhelmed by the album, they've got the chops and the flair but I don't feel the songs are entirely memorable - then again, I'm more a fan of the vicious and old school end of thrash, and this comes in more on the glam side. The remastered production helps a lot, the packaging is beautiful and the last track is actually a radio interview, so if you're at all a fan of this band this is very much a package to pick up. Myself, I will be checking out their follow up album "Think This" which I've heard is more diverse and has a different vocalist... meanwhile, this will be my pick if I'm looking for something flashy and over the top to jazz up my night.

<http://www.deadtide.com/reviews/albums/page.php?id=3889>

Standout Tracks

Door To Hell

Count Your Blessings
Eric.S