



Music: Rogue Male: First Visit

Our Take

Rogue Male may have been a part of the heavy metal/hard rock movement that was going on in the mid 1980's, but they aren't known nearly as well. Part of the reason for this may be that the group released two full lengths and two EP's before disbanding. But with a new lineup in place and new album on the horizon, it seems likely that these guys could become the big name they always hoped to be. In conjunction with their renewed activity, Metal Mind has reissued both albums. On their debut, entitled First Visit Rogue Male offers some very catchy hard rock/heavy metal that has great riffs and just the right amount of sleaze and listeners are sure to appreciate it.

The songs on First Visit often have a Motorhead vibe to them, but this doesn't mean that Rogue Male is a clone of that band. While the instrumentalists do offer some very fast paced punk/hard rock riffs that certainly sound close to what Motorhead was doing at the time but there are also quite a few mid-tempo numbers that have a distinct heavy metal vibe to them. Newcomers will most likely be able to tell that this disc originally came out in the mid 80's as it has the overall style and sound that quite a few of the groups in the genre did during that time, but due to fact that the riffs are above average they are likely to find that the album does hold up well. And at the very least Rogue Male has created hard rocking material that is genuinely fun to listen to, which does help quite a bit.

Vocalist/guitarist Jim Lyttle may generate some comparisons to Lemmy, but his voice does sound a little bit different. Though he does have a slightly lower pitched voice and plenty of attitude, his vocals aren't quite as gravelly and at times do hit some higher ranges. What really makes Rogue Male fun to listen to is the fact that Lyttle puts a lot of power behind his vocals and gives each of these songs a lot of energy while maintaining just the right level of sleaze. Although I wouldn't necessarily say that the vocals on First Visit are unique enough that listeners would recognize them out of context, they do fit the nature of the music well.

First Visit is a solid album, and although it is easy to tell by the sound and style that this an album from the mid 80's those who give it a chance will discover that many of the songs still stand out. Rogue Male certainly does seem underrated, and even though they may not have been the best at the time they certainly deserved a bit more exposure than they have received. If you like classic heavy metal or Motorhead style hard rock/punk consider giving this release a go as it has some genuinely catchy material.

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

Chris Dahlberg

September 13, 2009

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