



Music: Rogue Male: Animal Man

Our Take

Now that I've reviewed Rogue Male's first entry into the music world, it's time to take a look at the second album Animal Man. Released only a year after First Visit, this album continued some of the styles that the band had utilized previously while also going off in completely different directions. And while it is definitely nice to see that Rogue Male was trying some new things, it doesn't appear that all of these changes were for the best and because of this Animal Man doesn't quite stack up to their previous material.

While some of the songs on this disc retain the fast paced punk/hard rock vibe that was prominent on the previous album, the majority of Animal Man is dominated by mid-tempo tracks that are much more melodically oriented and are closer to the hair metal of the time. This isn't necessarily a bad thing as it means that the instrumentalists still offer plenty of hard rocking riffs that have a lot of energy, but it does hurt the group a little as it makes them sound almost exactly the same as every band in the genre from that time period. Rogue Male does still seem to be trying to experiment a little bit though, as there are some songs where they really try to be bridging the gap between hard rock/punk and the heavy metal of the time, but the more generic tracks drag down the disc as a whole.

Although the instrumentals don't seem quite as good, vocalist Jim Lyttle still sounds great. While he sounded a bit like Lemmy on First Visit, on Animal Man Lyttle's vocals have taken a turn for the melodic and he showcases a lot more range than before. Despite the fact that the instrumentals don't always seem to vary quite that much (aside from the occasional moment here and there), the vocals always seem to be trying something new and often straddle the line between hard rock, hair metal, and punk rock. Lyttle's performance certainly keeps this album interesting, and for some people it might be enough to keep them interested in the release as a whole.

Rogue Male's sophomore effort is a slight disappointment when compared to their debut but it still has its moments. With that being said though, if you only have the money for one of these reissues I would go with First Visit over Animal Man. Some people have said that this release marked the downfall of the group, and while I don't completely agree with that statement it is true that it didn't quite live up to its full expectations which is a bit unfortunate.

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

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