

BOOKS DVDS LIVE GIGS AND MORE

Reviews

UPFRONT

The best in DVD and book releases from Chris Adler and Jason Bittner, Steve Holmes and Rick Latham...

DVD Chris Adler & Jason Bittner *Live At Modern Drummer Festival 2005*

Jam-packed DVD puts spotlight on award-winning metal duo.



Getting an insight into the minds of metal drummers is a rarity. So this DVD, focusing on the Lamb Of God and Shadows Fall drummers' performances at last year's *Modern Drummer Festival*, is a welcome addition to the few metal drumming DVDs on the market.

There is soloing (including wrought-iron jazz licks from Mr Bittner!) and album tracks with Chris Adler roping in brother and Lamb Of God guitarist Willie Adler instead of a

backing track. Adler and Bittner recount tales of their early drumming years and field questions from the crowd (Bittner's tips on building double bass speed are particularly engaging). Bonus footage is access all areas with backstage interviews, and a short but insightful on-the-road documentary with Chris Adler, plus a video of Jason Bittner nailing 'The Light That Blinds' in the studio.

For fans of either band, or for those yearning for a new metal drumming DVD, this is a must-have.

★★★★★ Chris Barnes
www.hudsonmusic.com

Book & CD Rick Latham *Contemporary Drumset Techniques*

Chops with everything! A stellar collection of exercises to sharpen your skills.



When an instructional book is accompanied by four CDs, you know you're getting a lot of material for your drumming dollar.

Contemporary Drumset Techniques

could be titled *Ultimate Chops*, because Rick Latham has assembled 59 pages of skin-busting exercises that could give any drummer forearms that Popeye would envy.

Aside from two nice sections on the shuffle and hip-hop there are no straightforward beats here – it's all about building your technique.

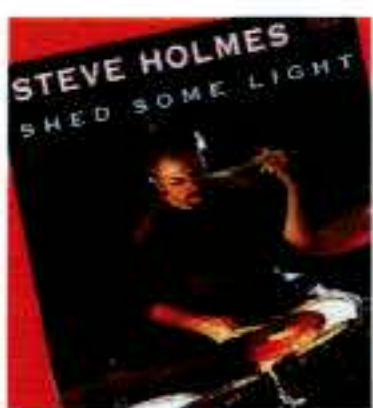
Latham's variations on the fundamental rudiments – which he calls his "contemporary rudiments" – are excellent, and he adds complexity to the parts with his clever sticking. He brings the entire kit into play and there are enough challenging patterns here to fill hours of practice.

The CDs that accompany the book are easy to use, with crystal clear directions from Latham who helpfully never forgets to tell you what exercise he is playing on which page, so you never get lost.

★★★★★ David West
www.alfred.com

DVD Steve Holmes *Shed Some Light*

The DVD which puts groove back on the map.



Although he counts Eric Marienthal, Lee Ritenour and Celine Dion among his touring and recording credits, Steve Holmes is equally well known for his website – www.houseofdrumming.com.

First sold on the site but now a worldwide release, the *Shed Some Light* DVD is a welcome relief from marathon-style releases and brings groove back to the forefront.

Challenging but accessible, *Shed Some Light* sees LA session player Holmes breaking down advanced concepts into understandable ideas.

He focuses on hand exercises to make expression easier, the essential dynamics of ghost notes, developing good time and groove. Hardly rocket science but fundamental to Holmes's style nevertheless.

Where he really excels is making polyrhythms and odd groupings seem uncomplicated, especially within 4/4 and 6/8 parameters. A section on soloing ideas leads nicely to two drum solos that feature a collection of all the ideas within the DVD, while the bonus features include live performance footage.

★★★★★ Paul Burke
www.halleonard.com

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