

Veering Away From The Cutting Edge

RON KEEL



Keel was one of the bigger bands on the Sunset Strip during the mid '80s—part of what the media now classifies as “Hair Metal.” Led by singer Ron Keel, the band was formed out of the ashes of Steeler—a group that initially headlined over the likes of both Metallica and Ratt, and featured future superstar, axe-master Yngwie Malmsteen.

There's a common misconception that bands such as Keel and their ilk were “glam” due to their tousled hair, outlandish clothes and the fact that they hailed from LA during the '80s. But the band was neither avant-garde nor particularly theatrical. These cats were really just straight-up rockers—in the vintage Van Halen



riffs, speedy anthems populate its slick grooves, especially in numbers such as the title track (featuring a big, dumb chorus for days), the infectious “Easier Said Than Done” and the hard-rocking cover of The Stones’ “Let’s Spend The Night Together.” Check it out. JK.

mode—with an unpretentious emphasis on big guitars and arena-rock sounds.

The band’s long-out-of-print, major-label debut *The Right To Rock* has recently been reissued in remastered form via Metal Mayhem Records. Produced by Gene Simmons, the album is a dead-on approximation of the pop-metal scene of Los Angeles, circa 1985. Blazing leads and loads of fist-pumping