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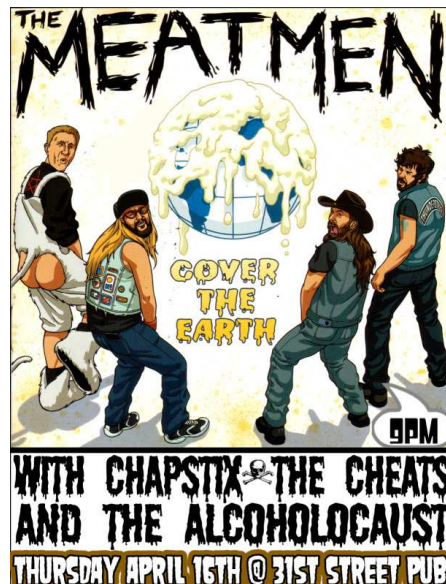
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The Meatmen - Cover the Earth Review

Posted by Jesse Coy on 06.02.2009

Punk's crass and humorous mastodons, the Meatmen, are back with their first new release in over a decade, founder Tesco Vee serving up over twenty covers of meaty goodness from the Blue Oyster Cult to the Fugs, Motorhead to GG Allin.

The Meatmen
Cover the Earth
March 2009
Meat King [Records](#)



In your local Wal-Mart this one won't be. The cover says it all. As stated in the tag line, we're talking about a cover album, the third cover album I've reviewed here in the past year. Cover [albums](#)... some like'em and some don't. I'm a fan of cover albums myself. In order to have a good one, you're talking two prime ingredients. First, you should have a memorable band doing it, as in an act that will give a different spin to the tunes they pick. Secondly, there's the [song](#) selection.

When it comes to a band picking songs to cover, I like a mix. I definitely want to hear some songs that I know, but the other power of a really good cover album is when it gets you into new bands. I can point to quite a few bands that I first became aware of through a cover album. It helps to build that endless web of influences and styles and genres, like you might see Jack Black's *School of Rock* character writing on the blackboard.

For those unfamiliar with the Meatmen, they were formed in 1980. Over the years, vocalist Tesco Vee has been the constant and driving force. From their inception, they've had and maintained a very crass [humor](#), funny as hell, maybe in a similar ballpark as ICP or Gwar, yet with Tesco's distinctive stamp.

He didn't forget to [bring it on](#) this one. Just listen to the "commercial" track, "Sex Mart 2010," to find out where Gary Glitter might go to get his sexual goodies, or the intro to both GG Allin's "Highest Power" (the track introduced for a church social) and Blue Oyster Cult's "ME 262" (a nice German check list for that final bomb run) cover. That BOC was a surprise of a cover.

There were a number of tracks that fit the band quite well, Tesco often having a crunchy or meaty vocal style, so he's well-suited for Motorhead's "Vibrator" or Fear's "I Love Livin' in the City," Fear in their own way being a punk band, formed a couple years earlier than the Meatmen, and just as crass (though not quite as raunchy) at times. A Tesco Vee and Lee Ving duet? Imagine that one. It's not on this album, but it'd be fun to hear.

There were certainly a few surprising choices by the Meatmen, some by bands I'd never heard of, showcasing the Meatmen's [musical](#) range, from classic punk (Johnny Thunders) and disco (Abba) to metal (Saxon) and acid rock (Pink Fairies). No wonder the band has such a range in their style. The whole thing kicks off with Jerry Lee Lewis' "Meatmen" (being a fan of the Killer, I never heard this one by

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him), and ends with "We Didn't Kill Each Other (But Didn't We Try)," a great country cover.

Good meatiness in between, this one has plenty of surprises tucked in there, with Thin Lizzy, Jimmy Dean, the Urinals, and [the Temptations](#) amongst some of the other bands covered. Apparently, Tesco was hard-pressed to narrow it down, having considered covers by MC5, T. Rex, and Slade, for example. So I guess they could make volume two of this. Only I'm looking forward to some new, original Meatmen material. I remember last year reading about this one being in preparation, and checked back in with [www.tescovee.com](#) recently to discover that it was done, as well as the Meatmen's reissuing project of some formerly long since out-of-print albums.


The 411: A wicked sense of humor, some great rocking tunes, and some off the wall selections, Tesco and company have often dabbled with peculiar covers throughout their history, so this one is a natural. If you know the Meatmen, you'll like this. If you don't know them, shake hands with beef.

Final Score: 8.0 [Very Good] **legend**

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