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REVIEW

Marty's Musical Meltdown: Kissology Vol 2, Blaze Bayley, Mountain, Megadeth, Plus Tons Of New Reviews

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I am popping off to DC for four days next week to pick up a commission to write a piece about the *US* music business. Anyway I won't be able to write my column or listen to enough music for a column. So consider this my column for the next two weeks. Don't worry I have provided sufficient reviews to keep you happy.

DVD review

Kiss: *Kissology Vol 2 1978-1991*

Over three hours of Kiss both masked and unmasked live is more than any Kiss could hope for. You also get a bonus DVD of a rather ropey live set in Japan; which is most amusing if not essential. As you would expect from Kiss there are also extras including TV interviews, especially interesting is the "unmasking" one from 1983. There is also the complete version of uber-cheesedom in the form of Kiss in *Attack of the Phantoms*.

If you are a fan of Kiss then this could be considered most essential. If you ever liked Kiss and missed much of their 80s output, then this might be a good place to start. If you liked Kiss back then but drifted off the band in the 90s; this might be a good collection to remind you why you liked them in the first place.

While every album was not as essential as the 70s output; each of their 80s albums, including *The Elder*, had at least two rather cracking tracks. I have a soft spot for "I Love It Loud," "Creatures of the Night," and, of course, "Lick it Up." Its nice to see the much missed Eric Carr is all his glory as well.

Blaze Bayley: *Alive in Poland*

This is a live testament to Blaze in all his f-ing and blinding glory. He seems to think its impressive if you use the word motherf***er between every song at least once. His onstage banter is filled with quite a bit of whining about the music business as well. Fortunately there is enough music to cover.

Not surprisingly, a vast majority of the tunes on here are from the two Blaze-sung Iron Maiden albums. You remember the two worst albums the band has ever released; that had a few bright spots but were overall rubbish. He even includes the dire "Virus" in his set despite the fact its pretty much loathed. There are a few decent tracks here like "Man on the Edge," "Sign of the Cross," and "Futureal." There is only one Wolfsbane track included which is a shame in the form of "Alive."

If you haven't had enough of Blaze you can hear him swear some more in an interview; as well as hearing from a few of his bandmates. Despite the poor quality of the songs the Polish crowd lap all of this up — mostly during the Iron Maiden tracks. But still its nice to see them show their appreciation.

Mountain: *Live in Paris*

An appalling sounding six track affair recorded in 1985. Why anyone would buy this scant DVD is beyond me, unless they are an absolute Mountain completist. You get the tracks you expect including "Mississippi Queen" and some impressive musicianship in the jamming bits. However the whole package is let down by the sound quality and the fact there are no extras at all.

CD reviews

Caamora: *Walk On Water*

This four track CD is the brainchild of prog veteran Clive Nolan and features the vocal talents of Agnieska Swita, a relative newcomer. She certainly has the pipes and what you end up with is an impressive collection of female-led prog gothy metal. Front the title track to track 4 and you are showered with impressive musicianship, clever songwriting and that impressive voice. As with any good CD, in

The big song, which is the first track, is the highlight of this CD with everything ending up sounding a bit formulaic and samey by the end of this twelve track CD. I am not sure they really had the songs yet for a full album. There is obvious talent on show here and they are a young band. A bit of maturity and tweaking of their songwriting skills will go a long way. Ones to watch methinks, but a bit forgettable for your average rock fan.

Megadeth: *That One Night: Live In Buenos Aires*

Mustaine is back and rather annoyed at things; as well demonstrated on his latest output on *United Abominations* which I reviewed early this year. Well this live CD is proof to just how on fire Mustaine and his new version of Megadeth are; although recorded in 2005. Twenty two tracks both new and old from his extensive catalogue. If you are a Megadeth fan, this is well worth the price of admission. If you like your metal thrashy but never gave Megadeth a shot, then pick this up and see why Mustaine is such a force.

Shark Island: *Gathering Of The Faithful*

I have always had a soft spot for this lot, having enjoyed Richard Black's songwriting and singing style. I even forgave him for the much maligned, but not as bad as many supergroups, *Contraband* project he was involved with that featured a bunch of his LA metal colleagues. This thirteen track affair sees Black and company returning to what they do best.

"Temptation" is L.A. rock delivered with bravado and class, with a healthy amount of clever songwriting and pace. While never as edgy as LA Guns or Guns n Roses; Shark Island deliver solid music. There isn't a duff track here one has to say. Some say its a bit dated; but since when has good rock music ever been dated anyway? Welcome back Black. Where the hell you been all these years?

Pink Cream 69: *In10sity*

This lot are back with another set of impressive Scandi rock; something they have been doing well for quite a while — 20 years in fact. Even losing their lead singer to Helloween didn't so much as pause their consistency of output. This CD marks their debut for hard rock and AOR label Frontiers who seem to be soaking up quite a bit of the quality bands out there. "Children of the Dawn" marks the beginning of the CD with its oh so blunt statements about the brainwashing of children in certain parts of the world, namely the Middle East. Not one duff track on here.

This is what you have come to expect from PC69; no trend jumping or jazz fusion experiments; just tight Scandi hard rock delivered with ability and consistency.

Rick Wakeman: *G'ole! & The Burning*

A couple of soundtracks from the inimitable Rick Wakeman and they are not as turgid as you might think. The former, as one might imagine, is about soccer. Its the soundtrack to the film based on the 1982 World Cup. Just sort of the music you would expect to be sanctioned by the Soccer's world governing body. Not exactly tracks to rock out to, but interesting none the less. The later CD is the soundtrack to one of the Japan's most popular horror movies ever. Its creepy music, with his variations being quite intense. Perfect for that Halloween Party you might be planning for later next month.

Trojan: *Chasing The Storm*

Wigan based NWOBHM types that were far more Bay Area thrash than Diamond Head or Iron Maiden heavy metal. The CD is replete with a naff pseudo-creepy cover as well the requisite picture inside in their 80s god awful clobber...all in white as well. Who did they think they were? Abba? Anyway the music is decent thrash played with intensity and might. Oh yeah and their name (with its umlaut) means t-shirt in Swedish. Not exactly essential for anyone's collection but proof that England produced thrashers that could rival any of the b-list American bands at the time.

The Lizards: *Against All Odds*

A heavy blues band I have never heard of that comes straight out on track one and blows me away is a rare feat. The Lizards are just such beasts with this incredibly tight and catchy blues rock. Then again its my bad that I missed out on this lot's first one. You know it *should* be impressive with the list of players from Mike DiMeo of Riot fame through Bobby Rondelli on the drums who has seen fame in Rainbow, Sabbath, and BOC. They have even brought Glenn Hughes along to lend his pipes here and there; though thankfully not on all the tracks.

I defy you to resist tapping yer foot along to tracks like "Plank Time" with its awesome mouth harps and drumming. They do touching stuff as well; on tracks like the soaring "Ariel." This is great blues rock done amazingly well. This is quite frankly great stuff that demands the ears of anyone who considers themselves a heavy blues fan.

Well that is your lot for this time out. I hope there is enough to keep you amused until I manage another column to have another crack at my pile of review stuff.

I did finally manage to get on the Led Zep tickets list for the O2 in London. Considering the millions of other people who tried as well; there is probably a snowballs chance in hell of getting tickets but one can always hope. Yes you are in a sweepstakes to get honour of paying \$250 for a ticket!

As always please stay safe and get yer arse out to see live music whenever you can in the next fortnight.



Marty's band, Growing Old Disgracefully, can be found at: [Disgraceful Music](#). His Cthulhu tales can be found at [Temple of Dagon](#).

Comments

#1 — September 22, 2007 @ 23:46PM — Glen Boyd [[URL](#)]

So Marty, at the risk of sounding old and un-hip, what exactly is the meaning of the term "duff track"?

-Glen

#2 — September 22, 2007 @ 23:58PM — Marty Dodge [[URL](#)]

Lame, weak...not as good as one could expect.

#3 — September 23, 2007 @ 00:11AM — Glen Boyd [[URL](#)]

Thanx for clearing that up Marty.

-Glen

