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THE METAL MINUTE

*YOUR DAILY SHOT OF METAL REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS AND
NEWS, BUT BRING YER OWN BOOZE!*

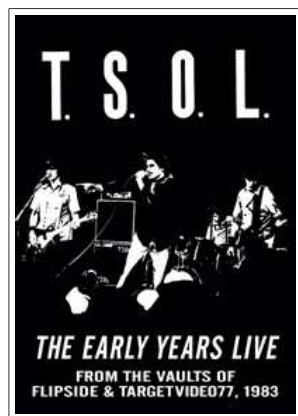
SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

DVD Review: T.S.O.L. - The Early Years Live

T.S.O.L. - *The Early Years Live* DVD

2008 MVD Visual

Ray Van Horn, Jr.



In some respects, T.S.O.L. was America's answer to Killing Joke. Both were formed in the late seventies and both were considered pioneers of punk and hardcore. Another likeness between the two bands was their willingness to outsource from different moods, perspectives and instrumentalization to step beyond the smash mouth rebelliousness each began with. What this translated to be was a pair of punk acts with a dark affinity for Goth textures who thought nothing about throwing their audience curveballs in the name of exploring their art. Let themselves be damned if need be...

Both bands sadly expanded themselves to the point of stretching themselves so thin that little-to-no resemblance of the core infrastructure could be said to exist. Killing Joke confusedly turned altpop on synth-drenched and way-out pantomimed albums in the mid-to-late eighties like *Brighter Than a Thousand Suns*, *Outside the Gate* and Jaz Coleman's huh? spoken word album, *The Courtald Talks*. In the same timeframe, T.S.O.L. had been shorn of its singer Jack Grisham and drummer, the late Gerald Barnes in what had to have been sheer rebellion in the suddenly lost and confused sound T.S.O.L. would eventually spew with the moody and nearly Cure-like *Change Today?* and ultimately their pop rock and straightforward heavy metal courtships with 1986's *Revenge* and '87's *Hit and Run* respectively. If anything was generated for T.S.O.L. in their awkward glam and leather days during the original heavy metal explosion, it was exposure from having "The Name is Love" from *Hit and Run* played a couple times on *Headbangers Ball*.

The soup-to-nuts about T.S.O.L. (or True Sounds of Liberty in case you're wondering) is that they, along with other hardcore bands of the day like Agent Orange, Circle Jerks and the Dead Kennedys, initially formed the lately-revered So-Cal punk scene that has now erupted with everything from stoner bands like Fu Manchu and High On Fire to metalcore darlings like Avenged Sevenfold, Eighteen Visions and Bleeding Through. T.S.O.L. showed bravery to alter their anarchy in the streets mentality on classics like "Abolish Government/Silent Majority" and "Property is Theft" from their blistering self-titled E.P. to a Goth-laced (and ironically far more driven) angst demeanor on *Dance With Me*, *Weathered Statues* and *Beneath the Shadows*.

**ALBUM OF THE
MONTH: ILSAHN -
ANGL**



**WHICH OF THESE OLD
SCHOOL BANDS OFFERS
THE MOST TO THIS
METAL REVIVAL
SCENE?**

Megadeth	66 (35%)
Slayer	65 (34%)
Overkill	14 (7%)
Lizzy Borden	4 (2%)
Motley Crue	29 (15%)
Anthrax	10 (5%)

Votes so far: 188
Poll closed

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MINUTE**

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