



THE OLD FIRM CASUALS HOLGER DANSKE

(Pirates Press/Demons Run Amok)

Epic themed album from Rancid's Lars Frederiksen's oil street punks send the opposition running.

8/10

Rancid's Lars Frederiksen's oil offshoot debut album in 2013 'For the Love of it All' was a rare spotless debut and more than a justified excursion from his main outfit. While the subsequent albums haven't been quite as brilliant they still have a good few numbers on each of them. While I thought OFC might be a bit of a spent force already I was proven wrong. What makes this album particularly unique is the fact that it draws inspiration from paganism and more notably a Danish resistance fighter who fought the Nazis during the Second World War. Frederiksen's uncle was a member of the anti-fascist group and Lars heard a lot of stories from his mother regarding it.

'Motherland' is a glorious ode to Denmark and the resistance warriors. The emotional title track benefits greatly from the use of acoustic guitars something that very seldom happens in the oil genre. Among the themed songs there are more laid back happy go lucky rock ditties like 'Casual Rock 'N' Roll', which I'm sure to get your cherry red Dr. Martens moving on the lager-soaked dance floor of dingy clubs. 'Traitor' is a hard-core blast similar to 'Gods of War' from another brilliant offshoot Lars Frederiksen and the Bastards.

Lars Frederiksen is a great storyteller as portrayed in his work with his first offshoot the Bastards, where he tells the story of growing up in a gang-infested Campbell, California. It is fantastic he applies the skills to such an interesting historic set. While instrumentals often seem like fillers 'De Ensomme Ulve' and 'The Golden Fall Pt. 1' here enhances the feeling of the epic war battles the band portrays throughout. 'Thunderbolt' and 'Overdose on Sin' are more heavy metal than the band's previous efforts, but give great variation to the album.

Lars's love of Motorhead comes across on this record as this is the equivalent to Motorhead's '1916' masterpiece. It's great to see how Lars Frederiksen is still able to create something as special as this after such a long career ranging from his teenage years in the UK Subs to present day post in Last Resort. While the album doesn't quite match the magic of Rancid it will still no doubt be one of the best albums to come out this year.
Jyrki 'Spider' Hämäläinen

