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Magni - 'Self Titled' (Spectra Records)

CD Reviews

Written by Gaz E

Wednesday, 16 June 2010 06:00



worth a look.

The show's winner Lukas Rossi recorded the Rock Star Supernova album which, although having ample room for a clearance sticker on the cover, did contain a spattering of quality moments. It is in the collection of this Bradley Walker completist - sue me! Rossi toured with the band - former Black Crowes bassist Johnny Colt replaced an injured Newsted - and married a porn star; things could have turned out worse. Runner-up Dilana recorded an album that featured Mick Mars and got swamped in record company limbo and fellow finalist Magni Asgeirsson went on to record four gold albums with his band in his native Iceland. Magni, owner of arguably the finest voice on the show, now debuts his first worldwide release four years after the show aired in a move that isn't so much missing the boat as being thrown off the boat by iron bar wielding activists.

If the timing hasn't already consigned this recording to the bargain bins then there are two other factors that might just do it; firstly, the album cover - it features the entire track listing! Didn't somebody invent stickers for that? The last time an album used this tactic it was one of those Top Of The Pops records from the 70's - y'know, the ones that featured doppelgangers playing someone else's hits. A bit like modern day Kiss but with a sexy retro girl on the cover instead of a former assistant in Ace Frehley make-up. Secondly, the best song on the album by far is the live version of the...err...Live song 'The Dolphins Cry', Magni's televisual show stopper.

It pains me to be critical about Magni. Call me an old softy but I thought the guy was genuinely nice...and what a fantastic voice. A voice that delivers as expected on album opener 'If I Promised You The World' and the second cut 'Play With Me' but these are tunes that limp out of the speakers like injured middle of the roadkill - think Newton Faulkner without the ginger hair. This is a record aimed solely at the horny housewives of suburbia. When it does...umm.....stroll out the jams it does so in a manner that sold Train a carriage-load of albums.

There is a song called 'Alone' and a song called 'World Alone' - the lack of imagination threatens to suffocate anyone with a penis who listens to this album. There are songs to break hearts and songs to mend broken hearts. The biggest heartbreaker is that Magni has crafted a record so one-paced that, come the final track, threatens to overtake itself. That final song, a live version of 'The Dolphins Cry' recorded in Laugardagshollin with an awe-inspiring crowd of females singing every word, slays every other track with ease. Shame Magni never wrote it. He can friggin' sing it though - awesome vocals that leave you wanting more....more quality songs like this one.....

I was genuinely excited when this album turned up for review - man, was I disappointed. Great singer, great guy, poor album. One-paced and performed with plenty of heart, but lacking soul. The housewives might take to it though...if they remember who Magni is.....

www.myspace.com/magnirocks

