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ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE - May / June 2010

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Features for this issue

Review of the NEW DANZIG cd "Deth Red Sabaoth"

Review of the 5/11/2010 PIL concert & exclusive video of Johnny Rotten ranting!

Review of the 5/6/2010 Ratt concert, plus an interview with Carlos Cavazo!!

Review of the 5/4/2010 Taylor Hawkins show!

Review of the 5/2/2010 Bullet For My Valentine / Airbourne / Chiodos show!

Review of the 4/12/2010
Nashville Pussy / Psychostick / Green Jelly

ROCK N ROLL EXPERIENCE!



Afreudianslip
show & an
interview
with
NASHVILLE
PUSSY!

Review of the 4/07/2010 BRONX / Violent Soho / Dead Country show!

Review of the 3/26/2010
The Donna's show & 3/27/10 HIM / Drive A / We Are The Fallen show!

Review of the 3/17/2010 Megadeth show & Mustaine's boobs!

Review of the 3/16/2010 Megadeth show, an interview with Chris **Broderick &** a video of Dave Mustaine's rant that led to the band only playing 3 songs <u>before</u> ending the show!



Welcome To The May / June 2010 edition of Rock N Roll Experience

2010 is in full effect, the Summer concert series is about to kick off, so you know we are excited here @ Rock N Roll Experience!

The Winter sucked here on the East Coast, but guess what...it's warm weather, there's a crap load o' good tours rollin' through these parts & I won't spill the beans on what we are working on, BUT, I will say that there's alot o' cooler than thou things rollin' down the pike, so keep a watch for some exclusive interviews with MAJOR rock icons in the near future here at Rock N Roll Experience!

I'll admit that I love the new L.A. Guns "Shrinking Violet" reissue...it's a kick ass record, I forgot how great Jizzy Pearl's vocals were on that thing & there's a review of that disc below...I felt like I had to mention it simply because I've been listening to it so much...double mention of that disc!

I found myself in a situation one night recently where I was having a conversation over what's lacking in Rock N Roll & it's hard to really explain it...what I will say is, I was watching a really old copy of Guns N Roses "Live at the Ritz" concert video...it's grainy, the audio is ok but the video has been watched so many times that you can see where the original vhs has serious wear spots. Funny thing is though, regardless of the bad spots on my recording, one things IS a fact...what old school Guns N Roses had..the "Appetite For Destruction" era...Slash & Izzy on guitars, Duff on bass, Adler on drums & AXL carrying the show...each member had their own vibe, they were dangerous, they were crazy, they were insane & NO ONE knew what was going to happen next...each song was solid, each song was amazing & I think rock n roll is lacking that these days...there's just no bals anymore...there's some stuff that's not bad, but the danger in rock n roll DOES NOT exist anymore...we need a new Iggy Pop, a new GNR, a new Marilyn Manson, a new Alice Cooper...we need some serious new blood in rock n roll!

As always, if you're an unsigned band & want us to review your music, contact us, send us your stuff, we cover ALL bands signed & unsigned alike!

I won't babble anymore, on with the show...thanks for checking out the site, enjoy it, this is a labor of love & I appreciate you guys supporting my habit!

REVIEWS



Before you begin reading these reviews, we have a rating system to tell you just how good or bad a CD is & here's the breakdown on how it works:

1 Star - You'd rather vomit than own this music!

- 2 Stars This is a cd you don't want your friends to know you have
- 3 Stars It's okay
- 4 Stars This is a good one, it lacks a little something, but it's a keeper
- 5 Stars You should consider buying this...it's a good one!
- 6 Stars Do what you have to do by any means to get this disc, it's a MUST HAVE!!



JUDAS PRIEST
British Steel 30th Anniversary cd/dvd set
Track Listing:

RE-MASTERED DISC: Rapid Fire, Metal Gods, Breaking The Law, Grinder, United, You Don't Have To Be Old To Be Wise, Living After Midnight, The Rage, Steeler, BONUS TRACKS: Red White & Blue, Grinder (Live)

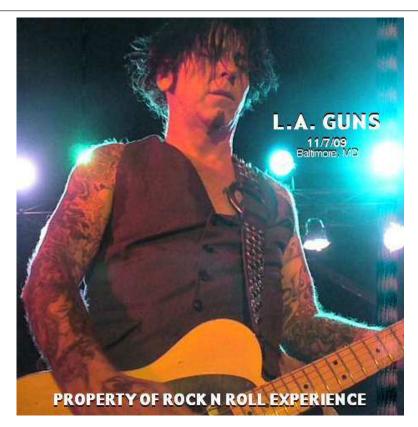
LIVE CD: Rapid Fire, Metal Gods, Breaking The Law, Grinder, United, You Don't Have To Be Old To Be Wise, Living After Midnight, The Rage, Steeler, The Ripper, Hell Patrol, Victims of Changes, Freewheel Burning, Diamonds and Rust, You've Got Another Thing Coming

LIVE DVD: Rapid Fire, Metal Gods, Breaking The Law, Grinder, United, You Don't Have To Be Old To Be Wise, Living After Midnight, The Rage, Steeler, The Ripper, Prophecy, Hell Patrol, Victims of Changes, Freewheel Burning, Diamonds and Rust, You've Got Another Thing Coming

Rating: 6 stars!

Judas Priest forged a bond with dueling guitars & screeching vocals that was often imitated, but never fully duplicated...the band started out as a street wise, tougher than nails sorta band with a catalog of music that was fist pumpin', adrenalin rushing metal anthems...then, somewhere in the late 80's the band put out the song "Turbo", a horrible cover of "Johnny Be Good" & things looked bad for the future of Judas Priest, BUT, to their credit, they released the "Pain Killer" disc & I always felt like that record brought back the band, it returned them to their roots while also laying ground for a new sound, a bit o' modern flair to what Priest did in their hey day...then, Priest lost their mouth piece, Rob split for a solo career. Halford put out a few killer

records with his very Pantera-inspired act, FIGHT, then released an artsy industrial release with Manson guitarist John 5 that was produced by Trent Reznor...the project was called TWO & while it was a great record, it failed to garner the attention of Halford's core metal audience. Meanwhile, Judas Priest had recruited a cover singer named Tim "Ripper" Owens to fill in for Halford, they released a few records, continued to tour, but both Priest & Halford could never quite re-gain what they had when they were joined together in the same band...flash forward to 2010, Judas Priest released the 30th Anniversary version of "British Steel" which is considered by most Priest fans to be their best record EVER! The set contains 3 discs...disc one is a remaster of the original release that includes 2 bonus cuts...the sound is much sharper on the remaster than it was on the originally released version. Disc 2 & 3 are from a concert records on 8/17/09 in Florida...the audio version is missing the track "Prophecy" which is only on the dvd of the concert...the dvd is better than the audio cd because seeing Priest is what sells them...KK's guitar work is still as impressive as it was back in the day, but for me, Glen Tipton's playing is what always impressed me the most..the man blends blues licks with metal & he's looking every bit his age these days, but he's still got his chops, still shreds! Scott Travis is the only non-original member in the band, but the bands original drummer quite the band ages ago & there was some sorta allegations of some crime, etc., etc., so that's probably why the man is not mentioned in this packaging at all, even though he played drums on the original studio tracks. Rob Halford still sounds amazing, but it's funny to see how he's aged...he was so tiny & used to prance around onstage with all the leather, had his blond hair, & these day's he's totally bald, has a beard & is more of a bear typed guy than a tiny boy. "Diamonds and Rust" is the song I enjoyed the most...it's a Joan Baez cover which alot o' Priest fans don't even know, but the band make it so hard & heavy that it's a Priest song forever! This is a killer package, the live show kills, the remastered audio is superb...killer, killer classic metal!



L.A. GUNS Shrinking Violet Deluxe Reissue

Track Listing: Girl You Turn Me On, Shrinking Violet, Dreamtime, Barbed Wire, I'll Be There, California, Cherries, Big Lil' Thing, Bad Whiskey, LIVE BONUS TRACKS: Decide, Rip & Tear, Never Enough, The Ballad of Jayne, One More Reason

Rating: 6 stars!

Tracii Guns is the only original member of L.A. Guns these days...atleast as far as his version of the band goes...this cd, "Shrinking Violet" is a reissue of the original release...this version comes

in a digipac, was released on Steve Vai's Favored Nations imprint & the live tracks were recorded July of 2009. The band that played on the studio cuts off this disc were comprised of Tracii Guns on guitars, Johnny Crypt on bass, Steve Riley on drums & Jizzy Pearl on vocals...the studio cuts were produced & mixed by Gilby Clarke. There was one song cut from this package that was on the original release, it was a Led Zeppelin cover, but the added a slew o' live tracks to compensate for the cut track.

"Girl You Turn Me On" kicks the cd off with a sleazy rock n roll swagger & it's honesty a song that could have fit on the "Cocked & Loaded" sessions many years prior...it's sleazy L.A. Rock at it's best! "Dreamtime" is a 50's inspired rock n romancer that's quite beautiful in it's slow but addictive groove. "Decide", one of the live tracks, is a song that Tracii & Jizzy wrote but never released, & the last 4 songs are classic L.A. Guns songs... "Rip & Tear" sounds awesome, "Never Enough" ALWAYS sounds amazing, "Ballad of Jayne" is faithful to the original with the exception that Tracii has jazzed up his guitar licks over the years in certain spots, whereas the original was kept to a minimum. "One More Reason" closes the disc out & it's a great way to end the set...honestly, hearing the live tracks made me yurn for a live cd from the Jizzy version of L.A. Guns...the sound on the live tracks brings it home, makes you wish you were at that show! Rock N Roll aint what it used to be, times have changed, but certain thing NEVER change & classic rock riffs accompanied by killer vocals will ALWAYS win the hearts of rock fans...Tracii Guns & Jizzy Pearl are the ultimate rock n roll combo & this disc proves it!



SHAKA PONK Bad Porn Movie Trax

Track Listing: Twisted Minda, Hombre Que Soy, Prima Scene, Some Guide, How We Kill Stars, Mad O You, Do, Te Gusta Me, French Touch Puta Madre, Gotta Get Me High, Sum' Luv', Alak'Okan, Make It Mine, Just A Nerd, Stop The 'Bot

Rating: 5 stars!

"Twisted Minda" opens this unique record & the bands bio declared that the bands sound is hard to categorize, hard to list in a genre, & when I listen to the band I can sum them up as such...they create artistic sounds that remind me of Mindless Self Indulgence, Gravity Kills & Faith No More...the bands music is like mixing Queens of the Stoneage with Flock of Seagulls...there's a heavy 80's influence, a quirky dance beat at various times, but there's also a tiny & distorted guitar that usually plays on most tracks on this disc..."Te Gusta Me" is the best rock track on this disc..overall, the band is good, they are original in a Mindless Self Indulgence sorta way, they sound good, they are not flavor of the week but they will definitely catch the attention of many people if they get the proper exposure. Overall, this is a cool release for fans of both dance music & hard rock, just listen to each track with an open & willing mind.



TOO LATE FOR ROSES
Debut

Take Me Out, 1985, Move On, Snow & Dust, So Gone, Pacifier, B.C.O., The Satisfaction, Soundtrack from "Masks", Winter Tide

Rating: 4 stars!

Ever the optimistic song-stylists, Too Late For Roses new cd, "Debut" blends elements of U2, REM, Mazzy Star & Ryan Adams...you know, when you read back the list of artists I just named...I use them in reference to elements I feel Too Late For Roses have in common with those aforementioned artists...in reality, Too Late For Roses play post modern rock that's low on aggression & high on rhythm & insightful lyrics. The packaging is artfully done & it matches the mellow vibes transcended throughout this disc. Cool record, mellow & hypnotic & "So Gone" is my personal favorite probably because it's got the heaviest vibe on this record!

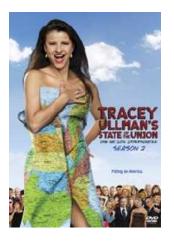


MAKARAS PEN Makaras Pen

Track Listing: Currents, Promises, Sacrifice, New Beginnings, Falling Deeper, What's Really Happening, Tightrope, Through The Mirror, envy and Lust, Spent With You, Opus 6

Rating: 5 stars!

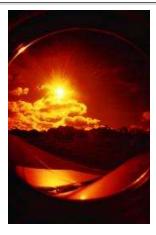
Concrete Blonde meets The Cure...Makaras Pen is just that & then some, the bands soft spoken female vocalist delivers a solid performance of softly sung vocals on each track while the band plays alternative rock that's layered very well with guitars, drums, bass & other instruments which make it all sound full & rich. "Currents" is a great opener...it sets the pace for a record that's about self discovery, bad relationships & growth. I think I'd describe this record as Courtney Love on prozac...what I mean is that the tunes are solid, soft, very female, yet NOT aggressive, NOT harsh, NOT ugly, NOT anything like Courtney Love, yet there's that balance where IF Ms. Love could balance her life out, be calm, this might be what her music could sound like...I also am reminded of a mellower version of The Cranberries when I listen to this cd. Overall, cool, melancholy music...I'll just say though, if you're depressed, you might not want to listen to this disc..it's dark overall!



TRACEY ULLMAN'S STATE OF THE UNION
Season 2 dvd set
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

Tracey Ullman is the mistress of disguise, she's great at playing characters, & with the 2nd season of her hit cable show out on dvd you can see Tracy Ullman spoofing Celine Dion, Miley Cyrus's Grammy, she plays a new caster that you might recognize, she's a Sharon Osbourne type character, an airport screener, she can play the roles of both male & female & this set has the complete 2nd season of her acclaimed tv show with a slew of extra's included! The "How It Was Done" feature is my favorite, it breaks down certain scenes & tells how they re-created moments, etc., while the outtakes are both hilarious & sullen...I've always thought outtakes on dvd's were discretionary to the viewer in terms of what they find funny & probably being there in that moment when the actor is laughing hysterically is probably more funnier than watching in on video at times. The Sing-A-Long feature is pretty cool if you ever want to have a drinking party & sing along with Tracey Ullman & some of her popular characters she created from Season 2. Overall all, this is a fun 2 dvd set, lotsa laughs, nearly 4 hours of viewing delight & the cool thing about this set is that you can watch it over & over & pick up different jokes, laugh at different things...it's a set that you'll watch over & over again & it makes for a great gift for someone who enjoys comedy!



RAZORHOOF S/T

Track Listing: Intro, Crawl, Watch, Abyss, Controlled, Devastation

Rating: 6 stars!

Hands down, COOLEST package I've received...EVER! What I mean when I say coolest package though is, the box that this cd was shipped in was literally hand spray painted with 2-D artwork..it was really cool to see an indie label promote a band like this...the packaging for the disc is cool too...it's in a paper, folded sleeve & the art strictly orange & black on off white

paper...coolest artwork EVER! There's no liner notes, inside the packaging is the actual cd & a sleeve that has lyrics to the songs on the disc, no bs, no filler & in an era when artwork & physical discs are going away, Razorhoof scored bonus points with me on this release! Musically, stoner rock with hardcore elements, damaged riffs with doomy sounding choruses, the band sounds raw, real & rough; that's how real rock n roll SHOULD be! I dig this cd, it's under 23 minutes long, but the vibe of the disc goes on for days! Super amazing, Raw & Rude, Razorhoof rocks hard! Is it ironic that the bands last 2 songs on this cd are 4:20 in length? I think not! lol

REVIEWS





THE RESERVES
Life
Track Listing:

Ghost Writer, Red Eye, Find The Light, Left Lane, Birthday Girl, Write Me A Letter, Life, Deliver, Room For Two, Butterfly, Last Man Standing Rating: 5 stars!

The Reserves are an interesting band...musically, but the picture that graces the inside of their cd, the one that's underneath the actual cd in the packaging...wow, it's kinda like the most awkward band picture I've ever seen...I'm not trying to make fun of the band, but this band photo is just so odd...the man on the left looks like he was shocked the pic was taken, the guy on the right seems indifferent, the man on the top looks like an eager beaver & the guy on the bottom row just looks angry!

Musically, the band doesn't rock hard, but they are consistent with their integrity & their writing style which is mellow & adult sounding. "Ghost Writer" reminds me of a Coldplay styled song, "Red Eye" is very lax, "Birthday Girl" has a drum beat that's like a horse galloping, "Deliver" is over 6 minutes long & endless sounding & "Last Man Standing" reminds me of a watered down version of The Lemonheads. Overall, this is a good record, but it's catered towards a more adult audience that's not looking for aggression or energy...this record offers insight & compassion.



SERIAL THRILLERS
F5

Track Listing: Ordinary Days, The Floppy Swing, You Can Say Anything, It Comes To You, Yeah Okay

Rating: 6 stars!

What caught my eyes when I read Serial Thrillers band bio was a little blurb about how the bands 2 primary members, Ortolano & Clements had toured with other bands & opened for King's X, Godsmack, The Tubes, Warrant, Extreme, Howie Day, and Big Wreck, plus the duo also were part of Missing Persons at one point...how impressive & diverse is that for a weird range of music? I love it! This 5 song EP from Serial Thrillers is interesting...it's quirky, fast, the EP itself is a little over 18 minutes long, it's too the point, it feels like it's poking fun at pop music at times, the opening track "Ordinary Days" is just a formula-typed pop rock song, "The Floppy Swing" is average, but "You Can Say Anything" packs a punch & picks up the pace nicely..it's faster than the rest of the songs on this disc & it really moves fast. "It Comes To You" is the token ballad on the disc & "Yeah Okay" is the closer & it's a fun rock n roll song with a fun guitar riff midway through that sticks in your mind! Overall, this is a fun EP, nothing that you probably havn't heard before, but done in a style that's distinctly Serial Thrillers!



AARON PETA I'm Not A Hipster

Track Listing: Your Songs Have No Form, We Are God, Sandy Understand, Super Sexy, I'm Not A Hipster, We're Coming, You You, Gotta Get It Now, Break Down Gravity's Weight (Ft. Pat Harrington), Way Home, Where They Are

Rating: 4 stars!

Aaron Peta is perhaps the most intriguing characters I've seen or heard in a while...the artwork for his cd shows Aaron creating a different "character" for each song & the artwork that's under thethe actual cd is left open to artistic interpretation...I'm not sure what it means, but I did see the "guilt" spelled "gilt", so it's hard to figure out. "Your Songs Have No Form" is weird, the structure is not typical verse/chorus/verse, but when Aaron declares he's not a hipster, it's almost like he's being redundant by declaring what he is or isn't, but artistically the disc is interesting, slightly lo-fi & not totally pro in it's overall presentation, but the sound quality is good, the music is good & reminds me of the 70's alot...what I mean is that there's no real genre to lump this disc into, it's open to interpretation, there's a slightly garage style to it, then there's a basement feel to

it...it's not band, it's just something really different than what you hear these days...the music lovers will get a kick out of this disc. I am reminded of the Dead Milkmen alot & "Super Sexy" is my personal favorite with it's retro video game sounds throughout it..it's kinda like the male equivalence of Ke\$ha!

THIS LINK TAKES YOU TO OUR HOME PAGE!.



REVIEWS



NONPOINT Miracle

Track Listing: Shadow, Miracle, Crazy, Frontlines, Looking Away, Electricity, What You've Got For Me, Throwing Stones, 5 Minutes Alone, What I've Become, Dangerous Waters, Lucky #13

Rating: 6 stars!

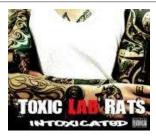
I remember seeing Nonpoint many years ago on one of the early Ozzfest's...I can't quite remember the year, I just remember seeing the band on the 2nd stage & then seeing them ushered over to the autograph tent where the band signed cd's, tour books, ticket stubs & anything else fans asked them to sign...the band didn't impress me that much back then, they were similar to alot o' the other bands from that era...their singer had an interesting tone to his voice, but the band just played like every other band from that era & flashing forward to close to a decade later & the band has been on quite a few major US & overseas tours, they've had minor radio airplay & they had a hit single with a Phil Collins cover. The band's new release, "Miracle" is on the fading format of compact disc, & the packaging is what impressed the hell out of me when I tried to figure out how to open it.

10 of 14

What I mean is, there's a folded wrap around piece of paper that holds the artwork closed, but when you unlock the folded holder the artwork is unleashed & it's really the coolest thing I've ever seen a band do with a release, packaging wise, since Vinyl went out. The cover opens via multiple folds to unveil a really cool die-cut cover that has artwork of the band in a post apocalyptic world on fire...it's kinda hard to get the cd out at first & putting it back in it's case is a pain in the ass, but still, this is the most impressive artwork you'll EVER see from a rock band!

Musically, the band really sounds alot like Mudvayne these days & I mean that in a complimentary way....Nonpoint have their own sound & what makes the band stand out is the vocals which are less screaming & more singing in a melodic metal style. There's a cover of Pantera's "5 Minutes Alone" that's dead on like the original minus Phil's vocals, which are sang clean & soulful.

Overall, this is a kick ass rock record, I actually find myself listening to the bass lines more than the guitar hooks at times because the rhythm section is absolutely flawless & possibly the tightest unit in the metal world at this point! If this truly is the last days of the compact disc, this packaging is a killer send out for the compact disc!



TOXIC LAB RATS Intoxicated

Track Listing: Three Single Words, Stripped Fucked & Bored, Strung Out, You Let Me Go, Because I Love You, I Don't Know I Don't Care, Lucy's Got A Bomb, Bedtime Stories, My Fried Dave, I Had Enough Of You, No Fairytale, Bar Room Brawl, Fuck You, Shut Up, Chasing Memories Rating: 4.5 stars!

Toxic Lab Rats are the combination of the grittier side of Rancid with the Rockin' side of The Clash...they make a simple, yet effective power punk formula that's nothing new at this point...Pennywise, Bad Religion & a zillion other bands have done the same thing over & over at this point, but the power of Toxic Lab Rat's is their energy, their unrelenting will to provoke, piss off & party...the band doesn't claim to be political, they write songs about what they know...they declare their independence with songs like ""Shut Up" & "Fuck You" which are loud, fast, angry ditties where the titles say it all! "Chasing Memories" is the cd's closer & when the band plays slower numbers it's where you get the Irish folk side of the band...they have an element that reminds me of Dropkick Murphy's slightly & the beauty of vocalist Chris Rat's voice....it's a mix of sand paper grit & nights of beer chuggin' & cig. smokin', yet, as coarse as his vocals are, there's a punk rawk charm to it that's cool as can be! Overall, this is a fun disc, but I have a feeling that the bands live show is probably even more crazier than the music on this cd...also, the bands drummer scores points with me simply because he's sporting a Twisted Sister shirt on the inside of the cd!



BAHNTIER Venal

Track Listing: Venal, Illusion Ground, Roots, My God, Memory Faces, Neurosickness, Diviner, Overblown, Loud, The Drown

Rating: 6 stars!

I can remember many, many, many forgotten Friday & Saturday nights in my life, I would go out & look for the best parties in the area...there were so many nights, back in the day, that I'd stumble into a cool little goth club, there would be music playing that I didn't know, the clubs were always the same...dark with inhabitants that were dressed in a style that the outside world would deem "weird", but inside the walls of these little goth clubs, the dress, the decore, the music, the mood, the environment...it all matched; part S&M themed, part goofy goth, part bondage, leather & lace...it was always a fun night when I could stumble into these clubs, meet new, weird people, hear new, weird music, & get lost in music that was a mix of beats, synth's, processed vocals, & the thing about dark wave, ambient, techno & industrial styled music is that, no matter who creates it, if it comes from the heart, if it comes from a dark place, then it's all legit & all real. I got the new cd "Venal" by Bahntier recently & this cd's artwork caught my eye immediatly..it's all medical themed with a nude woman's body being used as the canvas for all sorts o' weird stuff...the artwork matches the music in it's twisted visions, it's dark places, it's themes of being lost, feeling loveless, losing faith, losing hope & it's the perfect mix of goth dynamics with industrial music. The beats are varied, there's upbeat & fast stuff, there's slow brooding stuff & the overall tone of this record is to keep it dark, keep it real & I hate to use the term self loathing, but that's what I get from this record...alot o' self loathing & I can relate to this record...it reminds me of all the nights I'd stumble into a dark goth club, I'd find a stool at the bar, watch the goth girls dancing on the floor to these dark wave styled bands, I'd gain a new appreciation for bands I'd never heard of before, bands that incorporated elements into their music that wasn't all about live musicianship, & this music isn't meant for day time listening, it's best played after 11 PM, in a dark place.



BUSHWHACK Canvas

Track Listing: Stonewall, Morning, Flawed, Clubbed To Death

Rating: 6 stars!

I got this cool disc from the indie band Bushwhack...it's a 4 song EP that paints a solid picture of the bands musical prowess...the band has a prog rock side, a modern rock side & the song "Flawed" is the one that really got my attention...the guitar licks are damn good & when the song really starts moving, the drums are pounding like an engine that's firing all cylinders, the vocals have a melodic tone & the keyboards add a layer to the band that's one you might not expect. Every song has strong backing keyboards & it's what separates the band from most other

hard rock/metal acts right now...overseas you hear this style a little more than you do here in the US, so it's what makes the band stand out. I was also impressed with the bands cd packaging which was made from recycled plastic content...it's something I've never read before in a digipac cd tray! This EP is great because it's not too long, you get a good sampling of the band & by the time they finish up the last song it's just enough to make you curious what their full length release will sound like. "Clubbed To Death" is the EP closer & it's an instrumental 6 minute track. Check out the band at www.bushwhackmusic.com



ORIANTHI Believe

Track Listing: According To You, Suffocated, Bad News, Believe, Feel Like Home, Think Like A Man, What's It Gonna Be, Untogether, Drive Away, Highly Strung, God Only Knows

Rating: 6 stars!

I can't remember if I first became aware of Orianthi via the youtube clip I saw of her jamming with Steve Via, or if it was her playing with Michael Jackson, or if it was the footage I saw of her at the Crossroads Festival, but I remember distinctly hearing her name & never in a million years would I expect to see her have a cross over pop rock hit that's played on every pop channel across the US! "According To You" started to tear up pop radio charts from the get-go & I remember hearing this infectious track for the first time....I didn't know who the performer was, but the writing was fun, fast, poppy & good. Written from a female point of view about a girlfriend who's constantly put down by her boyfriend, the version on the cd opens differently than the single version played on radio & this is clearly the stand out track on the disc! The guitar solo's are tap-happy & upbeat & the first single off this disc ends on a happy note, then the 2nd track, "Suffocated" continues on the same pop roller coaster, while the entire cd has a positive vibe, it's all about having fun, enjoying life, rising above the negative, Orianthi plays all the guitar solo's on the disc & "Highly Strung" is a cool guitar duel between Steve Via & Orianthi that's fun to listen to if you enjoy guitar solos-a-plenty! I had no idea until I read the liner notes that Josh Freese plays drums on 1/2 of this record as well! The best way I describe this record is, Orianthi's guitar playing is good, she's a shredder yet she plays pop-rock music & this record is what Avril Lavigne's sound SHOULD be like...the new Avril single from the Alice in Wonderland soundtrack was a far cry from what Avril used to sound like & the new Orianthi record "Believe" is exactly what Avril used to sound like...fun, fast, poppy & not afraid to be young! It's ironic that the new Orianthi single "Shut up & Kiss Me" isn't on her current release, "Believe", but regardless, "Believe" is the feel good pop rock record of 2010!



KARMA TO BURN
Appalachian Incantation
Track Listing:

Rating: 6 stars!

This is a first for me personally, I got the new Karma to Burn cd & I popped it into my cd player, then realized it wasn't playing, so I read the disc & it said, "mp3" on the disc, so I popped it into my computer & low & behold, the entire disc is in an mp3 format, so I jammed to it through my computer player...the disc kicks ass, there's only 2 tracks that have vocals & they are my favorites...the bulk of this record is stoner rock excess, it's got great guitar tones, solid bass lines, thumping drums & really good music overall, but without vocals each song kinda loses something. I didn't list track listings because I didn't get a list of tracks, the entire cd is in mp3 format, the artwork is jpg format & interestingly enough, the format fits this music...it's different, unique & not anything new, but just something different from what's out there now. Again, the music is much like Kyuss, Black Sabbath & Queens of the Stoneage...it's straight up stoner rock, gutsy, distorted, fuzz toned & trippy....overall this is a solid record, just lacking in vocals for the most part

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