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ISSUE 26

Hacker's Source



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taken from The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge) Rigor Mortis (behind the grinding guitars, you will hear the autopsy report of Johnny's body - spoken by Lamberson!) Over the Hill, Monster (another terrific track) Aunt Alicia, Graveyard Blues, Mary Whispers, and Sorry Mary.

The only downside of the album is that musically many cuts, with a few exceptions, sound quite similar. This is still a great "driving around the town" CD! When I received the Gruesome CD, I also received a sample comic, which was fantastic!

Since this review is about Gregory Lamberson's work, I may as well go ahead and mention the soundtrack to his 1988 cult-classic directorial debut Slime City. With an instrumental mixture of rock, jazz, and classical, this soundtrack is a perfect companion piece to the film. The last track is the "Slime City" Song, by Milwaukee's Holy Mary Motor Club. It is a short, simple, and sleazy song that sums up the movie perfectly.



Nox Arcana

by Josh Haney

Grimm Tales
www.noxarcana.com

Okay, a question for all of you ghouls out there...what is your earliest memory of a horror story? I mean the absolute initial spooky story you ever remember hearing. Now, before you say Edgar Allen Poe in middle school or all of those Stephen King novels that seem to be in everybody's home growing up, I want you to concentrate and think back even further. Go back to a time when you were being tucked into bed, all safe and sound and Mom or Dad would pick up that big old book of fairy tales penned by The Brothers Grimm.

If you're as old as I am, you may remember these as some of the most twisted, dark and depraved children's stories ever written. Now, I'm not talking about the politically correct versions you see nowadays. I'm talking about that big old dusty volume that was your grandparents' grandparents. Do you remember now? Shadowy fables that were supposed to teach you a lesson, but instead scarred your psyche for years, if not decades, to come. Well fiends, Nox Arcana has put their touch of musical madness to these tales for your youngest years.

Over the years Nox Arcana has taken some of history's greatest macabre yarns and brought them to life with a musical ability some would sell their soul to Old Nick for. Stoker, Poe, Lovecraft and more have all been given the terrifying treatment of Joseph Vargo and William Piotrowski, the diabolic duo that make up Nox Arcana. And now Grimm Tales is added

to their repertoire, paying homage to yet another storyteller of times gone by.

As is their custom, haunting melodies, disembodied voices and subtle sound effects draw you into the nightmare realm where The Brothers Grimm's legends come to life. Along the way, from Shadow Forest to Hall Of The Witch Queen, we meet every type of creature conceivable. During this trip, you find yourself falling deeper and deeper into the fairy tale world as imagined by Vargo and Piotrowski. Like all of their albums, this one frees you from the bonds of reality; unfortunately never long enough to lose your way back home. And to help you ease yourself into the myths, the album comes with a full color booklet filled with Vargo's dark art; the perfect visuals to add to the strains issuing forth from your speakers.

It still totally amazes me just how much Nox Arcana has accomplished over the years with a style of music (gothic orchestral chamber music, if ever there were words to describe it) that no one else can even come close to. They aim to create realms rather than albums, soundscapes rather than songs. And they excel every single time! I have never once been disappointed upon opening the seal, and settling in to listen to their newest conjuration.

Do yourself a favor and pick up Grimm Tales, and any other album you can acquire by these masters of morbid mood music. Each one is a ticket to somewhere far different than where you are.



N.Y.H.C.

by Josh Haney

Directed by Frank Pavich
Social Value, 108, District 9
Halo 8 Entertainment
www.halo8.tv

When I was growing up on the East Coast in the 80's and early 90's, as punk rock was sounding its death rattle and radio rock was once again starting its stranglehold with the help of MTV, there was still one genre, underground to most of the uninitiated, that kept the flames of rebellion burning bright. Hardcore became that call to arms for quite a few of the punks who weren't quite ready to roll over and put on the flannel uniform or pull a complete 180 and start listening to the glut of hip-hop. A good percentage of these kids went on to form bands of their own, no small feat in a land of 'if it isn't radio friendly...', and were able to continue on, doing the same thing, for most if not all of the 90's. This document is a glimpse into that underground lifestyle.

With kids coming from such diverse backgrounds as the suburbs, a Hare Krishna compound, and the inner city, it's a wonder that a cohesive scene could have taken

place at all. But as this documentary shows through rare interviews with bands and fans alike, as well as never before scene concert footage, building the scene was the easiest part, forging on in the wake of hair-metal, rap, and grunge would test loyalties and friendships, not to mention the health and well being of quite a few of the founding members of this extended family.

The live show scenes are what truly make this documentary, allowing those that were too young, or just not a part of the scene access to what an average night was like in New York Hard Core. A lot of folks (mostly parents and authorities) tried to focus on the violence surrounding the scene, but that is just one aspect of the culture. Within the bands you'll find stories of triumph, sadness, religion, and most of all creativity. And that's what stands out the most, the fact that all of the people came together out such different backgrounds to reinvent and fashion their own brand of music, free from the constraints of corporate sponsorship. Independent labels were created in the D.I.Y. tradition to expand the reach of these, for lack of a better word, local acts, and garner fans from not only all over this country, but also all around the world.

Originally, this film (which followed the lives of all these bands throughout the summer of 1995) was the only one of its kind focusing on the N.Y.H.C. scene. Since then many others have come out, but this still remains the originator. For the DVD release director Pavich went back to the stomping grounds and created a where are they now second disc, which also includes the last ever Sunday Matinee at the legendary C.B.G.B's. The decade after interviews are an amazing addition, as you get to witness the aftermath of the creative forces that were unleashed in early 90's New York. The sound, especially for live shows, is stellar and the images crisp, clear, and oftentimes striking. This whole package, thanks to the people at Halo 8, is an awesome testament to the scene as a whole.

So, if this is your introduction to the world of hardcore, you're in for the highest education possible. And if you've been a fan forever, this is a nice nostalgic trip to the roots of a true American underground scene.



Punk Rock Holocaust: Punk Rock Holocaust 2

by Josh Haney

Directed by Doug Sakmann
I Am An Evil Carrot Productions
www.punkrockholocaust.com

As long as there has been rock music, there has been the rockumentary, it's just that simple. Years ago, in a time before music videos (yes