

We Will Rock You!

Glenn Hughes and Joe Lynn Turner, we could call them Monsters Of Rock. We don't need to introduce them, let's only say that the masters are back in town with the second chapter of HTP: Hughes Turner Project, and they're back to rock once again, harder than we could expect. Rock 'n' Roll!

by Sal Mirabella

Sal Mirabella : Congratulations for your new album simply titled "II". Why did you choose such a title?

Joe Lynn Turner : All in all I think it's one of the best CDs I have ever had the privilege to be part of, and I would like to thank everyone involved! Check it out and I think you will agree with me!!

Glenn Hughes : For me, HTP 2 is a fantastic follow up to our first release last year. It is, once again, a classic rock album. This time I wanted to take the listener a little deeper into our world. For me the music is stronger. The title "II" is simple and to the point.

S.M. : Is HTP your main band or will you always concentrate on your solo records and side projects?

JLT : Glenn and I will always do solo projects, but HTP is a chance to combine our abilities to create a new outlet. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to work together as we always wanted to do...

GH : HTP is one creative outlet for me that I really enjoy. I enjoy working with Joe. I also need to work on my own projects as well. I like to stay busy.

S.M. : How and when did you write the new songs? Did you work with any co-writers on the new album?

JLT : Glenn and JJ Marsh do the music, they are just brilliant! I couldn't add anything except maybe just a few arrangement changes. Then, as Glenn stated, we fine tune melody and lyrics.

GH : I wrote some songs alone and some I wrote with JJ, the guitar player, it was some months ago. He comes to my house and we work on things before Joe arrives. Then Joe and I fine tune lyrics.

S.M. : What are your songs about and how do you get the ideas and inspirations for writing music and lyrics?

JLT : Well, I think life experience is a great conduit, the lyrics on HTP, although Glenn's sometimes cryptic, have deep messages. We try to have integrity on every level, read the lyrics and tell me what you get from them... that's the important thing!

You worked with very well known musicians such as Steve Vai and Chad Smith. Can you tell us about your work in the studio?

JLT : Glenn is a good friend to both Chad and Steve, and he couldn't have picked up better players or people to be on this project...

GH : If you mean working with Steve and Chad, they are great. They are both professionals and nice people and the best at what they do. It is a real pleasure to know these guys.

S.M. : I think that if "II" was done a dozen years ago it would be a "Billboard top 10" for a long long time... is this your opinion too?

JLT : Oh yeah ! Totally!!!

S.M. : I saw you live in concert last year and it was incredible! How was the experience on tour last year?

JLT : Wonderful! The crowd, the support bands, the crew, it was all good!

GH : It was great. I can't wait to do it again.

S.M. : Will there be another tour with this new album?

GH : Yes, I hope there will be a new one in the spring of 2004.

JLT : We are ready to rock! As Glenn said, this spring.





Tribute to Van Halen

Best Of Both Worlds



MtM Music
55/100
Andrea Schwarz

Van Halen, with over hunderd million records sold worldwide, are one of the most famous band of the entire planet and records like this tribute give everybody the opportunity to listen to few of the best

tracks the bands created during more than twenty years of activity. Of course, the cd is not needed by who appreciate the band and already has all the records, but it could be a way for others to get into the World of this band. "Best Of Both Worlds" is a well produced album, including the best songs the band created during their long journey through the music bussiness but almost needless...why people has to buy all this tribute records?

Steve Lukather



Santa Mental
Ulf-tone
65/100
Luca Bosio

I wasn't really looking forward to reviewing this new album from Mr. Steve Lukather (in my opinion, one of the best three guitar players in the World, together with Eddie Van Halen and of course Steve Morse) leading member of the historical rock/pop band Toto, because when you get a guitarist who writes, produces his new effort in his own production, the resulting album should know as kind of ego trip or something; and also because his last release, simply named "Luke" wasn't at the top of my list, as well as the last wimpier Toto's albums, especially when taking into account the fact that much of Lukather latest session work has not been so much into the rock vein. However, this time Mr. Lukather, with a little help by some friends (I don't have any note about them, sorry!) has delivered a really various album that features some exhilarating guitar work: from rock to fine fusion to blues and jazz... this is what you'll find into these songs, a great variety of musical styles, played by a great guitarist, simply because he can turn his hands quite easily to any style, he hasn't filled this album full of self indulgent guitar solos, but good songs that are built around his, at times electrifying, guitar work. If you are a Lukather or Toto fanatic, buy immediately this record... if not, take a serious listen before get it!



Attraction 65

Attraction 65

Atenzia
80/100
Alessandro Ballini



Does Atenzia mean quality? It does to me, I'm getting convinced about this, stronger and stronger with every release by the Swedish label. Surrounded by labelmates playing all the sort of rock music, from aor to punk, Attraction 65 are more into an impact and groovy one. A genuine music, as frontman Gregg Fulkerson himself admits, easy to assimilate songs featuring both arena and intimate rock influences. The tracks, even bare in the title, start to rock with the robust opener Believe and to show the band's modern approach with the acoustic guitars of Roll On, courtesy of songwriter, back vocalist and producer Robert Streets. The rock charts are open to most of the songs on this disc: the hard In Another Life, the catchy Rise Above and the closer Eden are top notch bits for sure! About the last track, Eden (it includes another song as ghost track) doubles the influences of U2 rock master we found in Storm In My Heart, a rarefied and relaxed passage. Only a couple of fillers or ineffective songs can be found on Attraction 65 (yeah, selftitled album), make your own choice for the titles, it's a matter of taste; anyway you won't be able to find more of them, for this album rocks, no excuses.



Midnite Club



Running Out Of Lies
Escape
60/100
Andrea Schwarz

Stephen Seger, after the split of Mr. Hate found himself free to find new way of expression and here he comes with Midnite Club. We can find Carsten Schulz on vocals helping the guitarist. This album is a record which style could be described as a harder version of Frontline, Jaded Heart, Evidence One and Domain and no surprise to find members from that bands like Schulz or Robby Boebel on guitar as a special guest.

The songwriting is without variations from the stereotype of any other german hard rock band with really strong hooks and wide chorus but at the same time it's one of the best releases of its genre nowadays. The songs are enjoyable, the production is very well made and, even if the band doesn't have original ideas to impress more, surely it will satisfy the expectations of the above mentioned bands' fans.

EMO SOUNDS

HTP



2
MtM Music
83/100
Alessandro Ballini

Together with him, Glenn Hughes for the inattentive, the long time friend Joe Lynn Turner, not less historical character of the '70s '80s '90s '00s rock scene. The second chapter of HTP (Hughes Turner Project) is now finally playing, months after the recordings as they were waiting for the echo of Hughes and Turner's solo albums to fade. But the new shot isn't a golden labelled void box, aimed to keep the monickers alive; the two old boys are still kicking and shouting in the name of unbeatable hard rock, even going into a more groovy and mass dragging sound. HTP 1 loses some melodies with its follow up: Glenn and Joe decided to take the harder way and together with them, not so rarely leading the party, J.J. Marsh (guitars) found a good place to stare at the warm sun he's helping to picture. Not only for the remarkable solos or the irresistible melodies, J.J. seems to be more and more the third arm of this project. Meanwhile the two usual hands are flying in the air and shaking: while Joe is naming Beatles and Led Zeppelin to describe the new vocal results, we don't think these monumental voices could name any influence, not thoughtlessly singing the choruses of Goodbye Friday, nor invoking the relaxing name of Sofia. Eleven tracks of inspired/ing groovy and rhythmic, raw or polite hard rock are catching the fans one by one, as the two masters decided to get on the battlefield: they'll catch you, sooner or later, but HTP 2 could be a very good chance. The Voice(s) Of Rock is calling, and you won't flee!

Tracklisting :

Revelation - Alone I Breathe - Losing My Head Going My Way - Hold On - Lost Dreams - Time And Time Again - Goodbye Friday - Burning The Sky - Sofia - Let's Talk About It Later