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Badhoven - 'Obsession' (ATS-Records)

CD Reviews

Written by Matt Phelps

Wednesday, 05 February 2014 03:40

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Austrian hard rock composers Badhoven may make you raise a wicked smile with their corny band name but their music seems to have been consistently strong enough for them to have carved out a notable career within the European music business dating all the way back to 2001. 'Obsession' is their most recent release. The title track which start proceedings and the follow up composition, 'Fight For Our Rights', get things off to a steady start but with little to write home about in terms of uniqueness. Pretty standard hard rock but their unoffensive melodies certainly don't alienate and the smooth production that flows flawlessly throughout the tracks at least manages to enhance the middle of the

road style somewhat.

Quite a few of the tracks on 'Obsession' could fit seamlessly into any number of forgettable straight-to-video B-movies from the eighties but there are one or two that stand a few feet higher than the rest. The first of these is 'Rock You Hard', it may be as dated as Marty McFly's Polaroid collection and come with a Reckless Love type Euro groove but it's a pleasant enough romp through unthreatening territory and the catchy chorus is definitely an album high point. Pop Rock for pretty girls and lonely boys to be sure. 'Legends Of Rock' sees the band back on the same type of ground later in 'Obsession' and as with 'Rock You Hard' it's almost impossible not to find it likable. Something of a guilty pleasure I have to say.

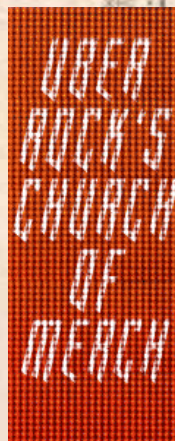
'I Will Be There' is one that lets the foot fall a little heavier on the accelerator with a chunky riff driving away through a verse that sounds like an old friend. Hardly game changing but a great player. As is 'Time Doesn't Matter At All' which flows with a nice bluesy Whitesnake groove pulsing under a raft of lyrics built straight from David Coverdale's finest one liners.

On the lighter side of the coin we have the touching, soulful serenade of 'My Brother's Red Guitar'. A tune which comes to life, surprisingly, with the type of smooth vocal harmonies Boyzone would be proud of. Mixing some bouncy but pleasant piano into the mix gives 'When I Found You' a feel that would be right at home on any Australian soap opera and 'She Is So Beautiful' revels in acoustic balladry so tender the Alps could be set ablaze by the waving lighters of Badhoven fans who probably have a secret James Blunt CD stashed somewhere in the glovebox.

The final burst of 'All Or Nothing' takes the boys back into the red zone of the rev counter with a rampaging bassline pounding along beneath a combination of guitar solos and synth bursts, the latter reminding me of laser shots from a seventies sci-fi show. If the sound of that gets your boat a floatin' then Badhoven may just be the band for you.

<http://www.badhoven.com/>

[To pick up your copy of 'Obsession' - CLICK HERE](#)



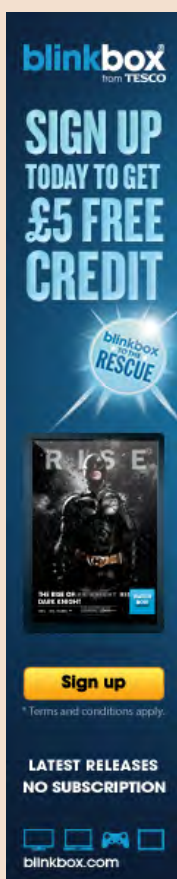
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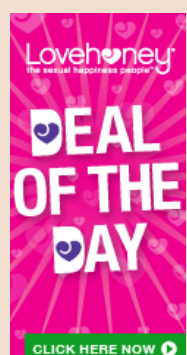
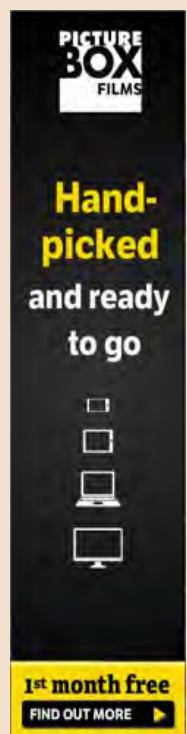


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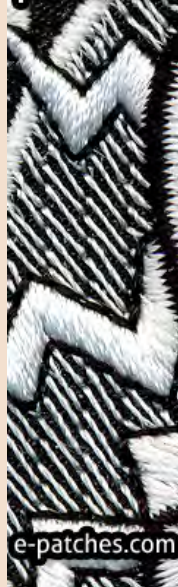
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