

An often squeaky, falsetto voice combined with classic heavy metal instrumentation? That could never be popular with macho culture or indeed any culture, surely. Well, against all odds that's what you get with Motley Crue and their 'Shout at the Devil' CD. Apparently the band use (or rather used) lots of Satanic imagery, which only makes the vocals funnier. Imagine Sooty singing Black Sabbath by Black Sabbath: 'Satan's coming 'round the bend, people running 'cause they're scared', etc. How would YOU react to that? Probably with laughter, yet MC packed stadiums. Stadiums of hardcore toddlers with parents losing their minds? Nope. Mostly young men. However, the mosh pits in Crue concerts were rather different than typical ones. Rather than the fans fighting amongst themselves, they actually tickled each other so they could mimic the singer's screams/whining. Strange, I know. Don't believe me? What do you think this lyric from 'Red Hot' is about?: 'Shout at the devil, we've laughed at your wars'. See? This band clearly went around tickling a lot. How can you laugh at a war, for Christ's sake?

Is the album any good? Yeah, why not? It's not the most complex music out there, but that's not an issue when you're in the feather filled moshing area, filled with adrenaline. To the delight of many, the riffs are very 80s with all their pedal tone and chugging palm muting ideas. Perhaps too 80s after a while, but the release was made in the decade to be fair. Changes in bass guitar notes underneath the 6 strings sound really cool and add variety, again even if in a basic way. Check out Knock 'em Dead, Kid's epic 3 note bottom end part. If the music's so simple, why have these people bothered writing a neo-classical styled instrumental song? How can it possibly compete with music by artists such as Yngwie Malmsteen? That's a good question (note how it's also my question :P). Actually it's not that bad to listen to. There's certainly no shredding in it, but the dual, dual guitars (4 guitars, to be clear) do work.

Changing the subject, but not as much as you might expect this time if you are familiar with my work... What did these people wear back in the 80s?? Studs on red leather costumes? I'm not saying I want to look exactly like they did, but it must be fun to let loose, once in a while. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. Apparently Metallica disliked Crue because of their alternative take on fashion, but deep down they were bored wearing jeans and t-shirts all of the time, I'm sure. Maybe they even wanted to wear just a touch of makeup to bring out their cheekbones, or something like that. Again, on occasion, that's fine. Right? But would you believe that Crue gave up on their winning look, though? Noughties and I guess 'tenties' pictures found through Google show them wearing normal shirts and even suits. And not suits with chains on them, either. My God. :(

Changing the subject for the last time, but going back to the actual music at least... The soloing on SATD isn't bad, but lead guitar work is best left for the songs only. In no circumstances should Mick Mars be allowed to play live wigouts without the band behind him, because those are particularly awful. They're even reminiscent of Nigel Tufnel's guitar solo in the film 'Spinal Tap'. However, the one in the movie is arguably more creative. (Check out Mick Mars' concert solos on Youtube if you don't believe me). Ok, ok, ok, I guess sometimes he just had off days. Not all of his improvised (well I hope they were improvised) solos are THAT atrocious. Still, it's funny yet unsurprising when the man plays some of the noisiest rock licks you can imagine, and then lifts his arms up to get a reaction from the crowd.... only to get no

response. He didn't get booed though, so he should be happy with that.

And that's everything I have to say. To end this review, here's an unfair Motley Crue themed joke: Didn't Motley Crue wear some crazy garbs? I used to love their heavy riffage and garbage. And..... Bye! (8/10).