

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Live From Oz' by prog metal band Planet X! I should point out that 'Oz' is another word for Australia, the concert was NOT inside Ozzy Osbourne/The Wizard of Oz because... why? Well, I guess it would be a hell of a story. If you've seen the film 'Inner Space' you will know that hypothetically at very least, people can be microscopically shrunk and inserted inside other people but that is NOT what happened in the concert, especially as the Wizard is fictitious, as are all wizards. (Never talk to someone claiming to be a wizard - run, even if it's me which could happen in the right circumstances). If it was what happened, you'd expect it to be big news, no? Unless it was part of some weird and disturbing, top secret scientific experiment, maybe. Huge prog concert inside of Ozzy Osbourne or wizard as part of dystopian, futuristic research? I don't buy it. Whatever the case, the LP is performed surprisingly well for a live album. I Googled if bits of it were edited in a studio after the concert and was told by A.I. 'no' and how that was 'almost too good to be true'. Yes that is too good to be true. It's just that there are surely well over a million notes played in the whole show and I didn't notice a single bum note. THAT'S suspicious, especially when considering how complex it is. Again, my theory about people being shrunk and inserted into people/wizards on the other hand isn't suspicious, it's crazy. Also, I have an album in my collection that IS 100% live and let's be frank, it's rubbish. However, another reason it's not very good is because the guitarist kinda sucks, but you see my point.

On an unrelated note, I was told by my boss to delete all emails for Metal Rules sent 2 months ago and onwards to save space in Yahoo. However, by mistake I deleted the emails from last month as well! It took me a good 40 minutes to recover all of the deletions (or at very least most of them, I gave up towards the end, close enough, shhhhhh) which was really annoying, obviously. However, I'm not letting all that lost time get to me, so I'll make light of it now: Hahaha. No, let's make this writing almost like a real article and link that story with the album, somehow. Ok, so I deleted things by accident and none of the album was deleted because it was all performed perfectly, apparently. Yeah, I can work with that! It's not a perfect comparison though as I wasn't thinking to myself 'Oh for flip's sake!' whilst listening to the music like I was when I realised my mistake. However, if you don't like prog metal, you may well think to yourself 'oh for flip's sake shut up!' which is close enough for a solid comparison. To coin a phrase, it would be 'prog rage'. I get it, the music isn't for everybody. It goes both ways though, I'm sure there are prog musicians out there who feel rage when they don't hear a single F# augmented chord with a flat 9th and a sharp 11th. As in 'arggh!! This music is too simple and listenable!' then he smashes his computer. Personally I like hearing a plain old major chord from time to time. I'd certainly prefer to hear it on the radio in a doctor's appointment (and I often do) the other chord would give me a heart attack, at least if played over and over again.

Would I like to hear mistakes in the live album for the sake of an authentic performance? Probably not. Looking at things from another angle, the fact the Planet X musicians almost certainly re-recorded parts of the LP later (sorry A.I., once again I don't believe you) shows even more effort from the musicians which is good, isn't it? Of course they could have worked harder in the concert's practice sessions, but they got there in the end. Ah yes, I should point out that Tony Macalpine plays guitar in this album, and I've seen him play live on Youtube. He made lots of mistakes, only confirming my previous doubts. If Steve Vai was playing on the album on the other hand, I probably would believe it if he didn't make any errors. Many years ago now, I

read an article featuring Mr. Vai and he talked about him playing a wrong note in one of his recordings. I was thinking to myself 'yeah, yeah, it's just you being humble.' Also, Tony said that playing guitar is easier than playing piano (which he also plays). He says that, but he's a much better pianist than a guitarist, so go figure. Similarly, Joe Satriani's flawless live albums are kinda plausible, too. Now what to rate Live From Oz?? Let's give it a 9.5/10! If it had lots of mistakes in it, though? I really don't know! As Thin Lizzy's 'Live and Dangerous' album was 25% edited in the studio, the true performance of that would probably get a 3. Bye!