

Hybrid Dawn - Kill the Messenger

CD Review

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If there's anything harder than being a band trying put out a record, it's putting out another record for the second time AND having to change the band's name. Being stuck between a rock and a hard place proved to be no road block for the band formerly known as Receptor (who you may remember from last year's UB Rock Fest). While others may have seen this as a set back, the New York City based band saw this as an opportunity. Under their new name-Hybrid Dawn, the group continues to serve up their signature "balls-in-your-face-rock" as well as some new tricks up their sleeves in their long awaited full length album Kill The Messenger.

From practices at the rehearsal studio to the recording booth at Apple Rock Studios (Drummer Eric Applegate is the mastermind engineer/mixer.), and finally seeing their newest songs performed live on stage, it has been a treat to watch the makings of Hybrid Dawn's newest album from the beginning stages to the finished product.

Kill The Messenger consists of ten tracks of their good old heavy rock groove with a mix of some softer melodic tunes. Expect gritty hard rock with tracks like "Things I Say" and "My Innocent" as well as intricate and sophisticated lyrics in songs like "Silence On Rewind" and "Speaking In Voices".

One thing I do enjoy about Hybrid Dawn is their ability to make a song into a story. Their ballad "Hollow Boy" tells of an unrequited love and the extremes that one would go to have those feelings returned. I cannot leave out the record's title track "Kill The Messenger" which is about a soldier's feelings towards a war he fights in. The song incorporates a punch of energy while producing a clear and strong political statement. This album truly showcases a variety of the band's talents.

The band released their debut EP album, Gestation back in early 2007. When it comes to completing a second album, the question in hand is always, "Can it be better than the first?"

Although most fail or barely make it to those standards, Kill The Messenger has managed to even exceed my highest expectations. Any band can put out as many CDs as their heart desires, but it takes a great band to grow as a group and as individuals from album to album.

Hybrid Dawn's newest album is bound to intrigue the mind and ears. Certainly an album worth the wait.

