



## TALES FROM THE STUDIO...

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH MARK HOPPUS?**  
 "He's easy going, he's a funny dude, and it was kind of like hanging out. We didn't over think anything, it was like, let's just take these songs, get good sounds and keep it raw and energetic."

**NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT IS A MORE UPTEMPO ALBUM THAN YOUR LAST, COMING HOME. WAS THAT A CONSCIOUS DECISION?**

"We love [the songs off] Coming Home, but live we couldn't really rock out to them. And that's what we love. So I think naturally I was wanting rhythms that I knew I'd have fun playing live."

**WHAT ARE YOU HAPPIEST WITH ABOUT THE ALBUM?**  
 "I like a lot of the riffs, in the sense that I feel like there's a lot of things you can play air guitar to, which is kinda cool."

### ABINAYA CORPUS (REBEL) KK



#### FRENCH METALLERS STRUGGLE TO GET INTO THE GROOVE ON ALBUM NUMBER TWO.

**IF NOTHING** else then it must be said that Abinaya are one of the most varied and experimental metal bands currently doing the rounds. However, as is so often the case, the band's second album is proof that originality doesn't always lead to quality. A bizarre mix of tribal metal fury and scuzzy hard rock, there are moments of brilliance on display but these are far outweighed by moments of hesitation. Much like teenage lovers battling to keep quiet, the French quartet seem reluctant to fully get into the groove, often switching up their approach when all they really need to do is hammer away in order to get the job done. An anti-climax indeed.

**DOWNLOAD:** Enfant d'Orient.

**FOR FANS OF:** Soulfly, Down.

RYAN BIRD

### BURIED INSIDE SPOILS OF FAILURE (RELEASE) KKKK



#### CANADIAN NOISECORE MONSTERS TEAR EVERYTHING APART, AGAIN.

**IT'S BEEN** four years since Ottawa's Buried Inside dropped their decimating Chronoclast CD, returning to the fold with one of the most powerful and scarring albums you're likely to hear this year. Comprised of eight numbered but unnamed tracks, the band unleash an apocalyptic sound that is mired in unbearable tragedy and burning with primal violence, that majority of the songs stretched out to epic length yet never overstaying their welcome. The rawness of the record only serves to exaggerate the naked emotion seething through every agonising moment, making this the kind of record that is less listened to than experienced. Magnificent.

**DOWNLOAD:** Ill.

**FOR FANS OF:** Converge, Cult Of Luna.

DAN SLESSOR

### BURNING POINT EMPYRE (METAL HEAVEN) KKK



#### FINNISH POWER METAL EDGES ITS WAY TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF AVERAGE.

**LIKE MOST** bands from this genre, Burning Point have needed a revolving door policy on personnel in order to reach their potential. The Finns are competing against tough opposition, and while this album has the requisite flyaway solos and chunky hooks, it doesn't have that sixth gear, that extra layer of magic or finesse to take it to a special space. Fans of Hammerfall and their brethren will like the band's concise, angular attack and the anthemic chops of Face The Truth and Empyre, but they'll also have heard it before. Burning Point need to dig deep and somehow find even better material to truly compete at this level.

**DOWNLOAD:** Face The Truth.

**FOR FANS OF:** Blind Guardian, Tarot.

STEVE BEEBEE

### CENTAURUS-A SIDE EFFECTS EXPECTED (LISTENABLE) KKK



#### GERMAN THRASHERS KEEP IT FAST AND FURIOUS ON PROMISING DEBUT.

**TAKING THEIR** name from that of a lenticular galaxy located some 14 million light years from Earth, Centaurus-A fail to produce music that's quite so far ahead of their peers. However, this is not to be taken negatively, for while their jarring, furious metallic template may not be in a realm of its own, the German five-piece provide a steady and at times pleasing racket. Switching between blasts of speedy thrash and mechanical grooves, the likes of Selfmade Cage and album closer Resistance Ain't Futile provide decent slabs of no-frills metal. It's enough to make you believe that next time around they may just create something truly special.

**DOWNLOAD:** Selfmade Cage.

**FOR FANS OF:** The Haunted, Nightrage.

RYAN BIRD

### CHAOSWAVE DEAD EYE DREAMING (SPV) KK



#### BRAVE GENRE CROSSOVER PROVES A SADLY ELUSIVE MUDDLE OF IDEAS.

**ON PAPER** it sounds like a plan. Combine Nevermore's driving force with the male/female vocal interplay and clever use of melody that defines Lacuna Coil's music. Chaoswave seem to have collected all the stickers but missed out on the sticker album. This Danish/Italian collective are certainly heavy and reasonably melodic, but their flashes of brilliance are just that – brief, illuminating and over in a second. A March For The Dying rattles on forever without getting far, though previous track How To Define A Race is at least momentarily imbued with a particle of A Perfect Circle's shadowplay. Ultimately this is a hard album to unpick, a challenge with little pay off.

**DOWNLOAD:** Rise.

**FOR FANS OF:** Epica, Opeth.

STEVE BEEBEE

### HERMAN FRANK LOYAL TO NONE (METAL HEAVEN) KKKK



#### SUPERSIZED BITE OF MELODIC METAL FROM FORMER ACCEPT GUNSLINGER.

**FOR PROOF** that quality metal can be found beneath the most unlikely stones, try turning this one. The silver-haired figure of Herman Frank, former guitarist of German metal crew Accept, may not seem the most likely bet for killer new material in the year 2009, but solo album Loyal To None is a monstrous, heavy, rounded dose of rock at its purest and most memorable. There's nothing new or remotely innovative here of course, but with Victory singer Jiotis Parachidis beefing up the sound, almost every song finds a humungous hook among Frank's rugged riffage. Here you'll find all the aggression of Accept given a canyon-wide modern production.

**DOWNLOAD:** Down To The Valley.

**FOR FANS OF:** Wolf, Iced Earth.

STEVE BEEBEE