

Undurskin What Goes Around August 2022

Undurskin are a no holds barred metal/punk rock duo from the UK who defy all normal standards and rules by creating more noise than only two people should be able to make. "What Goes Around" is a concept album five years in the making. Mok Morris on vocals and bass with his partner in crime Andy Dawson on drums bring their own unique twist to the metal and punk genre collision which results in a raw, pulsating and highly stimulating sound. Mok's bass is full of distorted fuzziness, it really adds some serious muscle and intricacies to his sound. Andy's drumming is immense. He switches styles between fast punk and pounding stoner/doom rock with elaborate metal touches. An extremely talented all rounder and no mistake. This very talented duo have created an amazing collection of songs that will appeal to punk and rock fans alike. "The Scream" has some heavy Maiden influences in parts. Throughout the album there are glimpses of the musical references which all gel together to make the consummate Undurskin sound.

The concept of the album is a story of a seedy underworld enforcer trying to balance his work and personal life. The snippets of dialogue and phone calls either at the beginning or end of each song, complemented with the album artwork gives the overall presentation of an audio noir comic book/graphic novel. All of these elements work together. The only grass roots act doing something similar is Death Ingloria although their stories are more sci-fi based.

Comprising of sixteen tracks and weighing in at a hefty one hour, six minute running time, you definitely get plenty of bang for your buck.

Personally, the non-musical sections are not for me. I think the musicality and lyrical content in all of the songs is more than enough. Although I think the album would be great with the songs only, die hard comic-book and anime fans are sure to love the whole package, so I understand where the band is coming from using this dual format.

All of the tracks vary in intensity and flavour to give the listener a veritable banquet of blood pumping audio delights. Undurskin's sound really packs a lethal punch to the psyche. The atmosphere of the album is dark, full of suspense, mystery and violence. The songs conjure vivid imagery and entice you into the murky world portrayed in the story.

Throughout the album there are thought provoking tracks and some hard hitting heavy songs that really get your fired up. "Raise Your Hands" is a good example of this.

Although this band has been around for a few years and has gathered a significant following, I would say that they are yet to reach their peak and that can only be good news for everyone associated with this band. Their energy and ability to write and play powerful, fired up heavy punk and hard rock which transcends normal genres and expectations speaks volumes.

One of the best things I like about Undurskin is that there is not really anyone else quite like them. Yes there are snippets of rock and punk which you may be able to pick out and recognise, but overall these guys are really making something special. They have laid down a marker with this album and in this particular sub-genre of music they have set the bar extremely high for other bands to reach.

This is simply a great album. Comic book fans who appreciate the concept will be all in with the whole package. Solely music devotees will be taken aback by how good the music is. This is a band I am very keen to hear more from and I would dearly like to see them play these songs live.

If Undurskin have plenty of rocket juice in their tank after this, then the sky's the limit.