

Live!

Music Review

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MONSTERS OF THE '70s



GENSCHMAN LABEL REVIEWED



HUNDREDS OF CD RATINGS

RUSH, QUEEN, ACDC & MORE!

RUSH "LIFE UNDER PRESSURE"
(Metal Memory 90021, 47:22)

RUSH "RUSHIAN ROULETTE" (Metal Memory 90018, 55:46)

Rush has had two incarnations, the first (and short) life being that of a basic working class hard rock outfit with drummer John Rutsey. This version is best known for the bone-crushing "Working Man", a song that still gets extensive airplay throughout the US on "classic rock" radio stations.

The line-up with Rutsey lasted only through one major label lp, the band's self-titled "Rush" lp. He was replaced by Neil Peart who quickly became a major force in the direction the band would ultimately take. With Peart's futuristic and mythological lyric



writing, it wasn't long before guitarist Alex Lifeson began penning more elaborate melodies and instrumental passages to match them. The only link in style between the two band's would be bassist Geddy Lee's unique, high ranging voice.

"Life Under Pressure" is from the band's "Grace Under Pressure" tour, a tour and album which found them giving a nod back to the guitar dominated rock of their early days, while retaining their more complex aspects. Gone are the heavy doses of synthesizer that textured such travesties as "Moving Pictures" and "Signals". But Rush had developed a whole new fan base that had literally grown up on the psi-fi gloss that ruined such songs as "Freewill" and "New World Man". Even though "Grace Under Pressure" drew critical acclaim, the fans weren't buying it and soon after, the band was back to wretched excess. (1985's "Power Windows")

"Life Under Pressure" gives an excellent, but short account of the 1984 tour with a radio broadcast (excellent stereo) from Pittsburg, Pa., on July 8, 1984. It rates second only to the "Live From Electric Ladyland Studios 1974" (Klondyke 016) on the rock-o-meter scale.

Another excellent release from Metal Memory is "Rushian Roulette", another high quality broadcast release which finds the band at the annual Pinkpop Festival in the Netherlands on May 5, 1979. This time the band is touring behind the "Hemispheres" album. This is roughly the point where Rush went past the boundaries of rock & roll (and to a certain point, good taste), but they still manage to pull off a decent performance here. They only manage one song from the first album though, and for someone who lived and breathed that lp during most of 1974 (Zep wasn't touring!) things like "Passage To Bangkok" and "Closer To The Heart" are a little tough to take. (BG)

RUSH "LIVE IN TORONTO 1986" (Best Of Live Series 019, 51:12) This is another version of the same broadcast that appears on "Live Under Pressure". The positive

aspect is that it includes 1 extra song. The negative aspect is that it gives completely erroneous venue information. (BG)