

Nemesis is in the Premises



DISCourse

with Bill Polonsky

Like their insubstantial namesake, Nemesis, the goddess of divine retribution against those who succumb to hubris, Whitehorse's own Nemesis plays music chock full of reaction to dirty deeds that any Greek god would find satisfying.

Released earlier this year, I will admit to judging the CD by the cover when I first saw it.

I will further admit to having had an early fling with the dark lord and his macabre music. Having an aversion to what has become iconic in the metal genre, the whole skull and bones thing kind of chokes my cherries.

Nemesis is a hard-working live act and, live, it is a harder and louder animal. Lots of spit and sweat is to be expected (or should I say expectorated) at a live gig.

The *Bad Blood* CD, in contrast to the live persona of the band, brings together real tonal quality and depth that live music tends to shred in the acting out of the thing.

The CD is divided into two dis-

tinct recording periods: 2007 Sessions and 2005 Sessions.

In 2005, the recording was a bit compressed and, at times, thin-sounding to my ears. This shouldn't be a reflection on the band, after all, KISS' second album sounds terrible but the music is classic.

What is obvious in the earlier recording is that the music is stylistically crunchier and employs a higher thrash factor.

There is also an edge of experimentation with the use of vocal echo and other slight processing that jars the listener into the mix. The vocals chorus of *Burning Times* is a good example of this spatial distortion.

The latest recordings are better having a clear and fuller sound.

The quality comes through in other ways, most dramatically,

the use of the full-spectrum and discrete stereo separation of the two guitars. This way of recording guitars is a bit of a flashback to some of my favourite acts of the 70s.

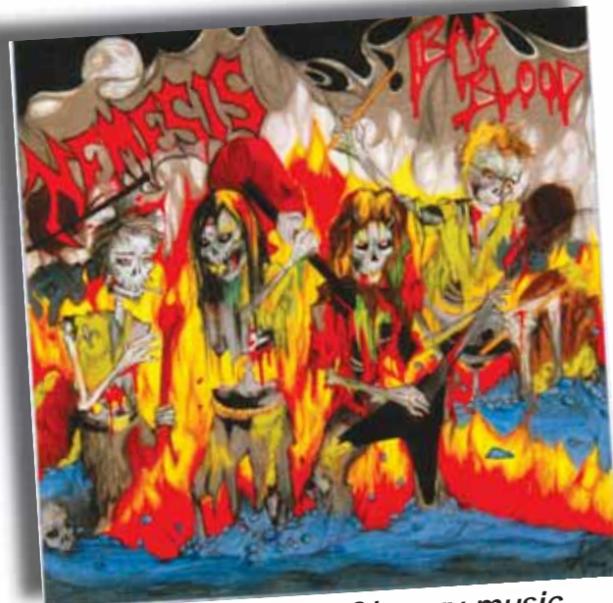
To my ears, this creates a wide stereo in the headphones and creates an active mix in the centre of your brain. This is the point that science calls the numb skull.

This is also the point at which my head is most comfortable.

Most songs on this album are over five minutes. This is an important factor for anyone interested in heavy music like this. This format allows the band to fully explore and express musical themes and changes allowing the listener to absorb the maximum amount of power short of head explosion.

Switching gears to a new song is not an option when the head is banging at a comfortable rate of speed.

Nemesis has never failed to strike me as one of the hardest working bands in town. If you



Yukon's bad boys of heavy music strike hard with new album.

haven't caught its live act, check it out. If you're getting long in the tooth and still long in the hair, pick up a CD.

Say it's for your kid.

You can check out Nemesis on the web at www.myspace.com/nemesissteel.

The CD can be found at Triple J's.

Have you got a hot homebrew CD that needs some reviewing? Bill Polonsky can be found at his website, www.strangethingsdone.com.

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