



Starsailor
On the Outside
EMI

★★★★

On the Outside makes me feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. Well, maybe not warm and fuzzy, but Starsailor's second album is really quite good.

The four-man band hails from the UK, and their origin is something easily heard on the album. Starsailor has that quintessential British sound that is found in almost all the music exported from the country.

I don't think anyone can quite put their finger on what that sound is, but it's there and it's good.

The vocal talent of lead-man James Walsh could easily rival the likes of James Blunt and Chris Martin. The listener's ear is drawn to the guitar melodies like a magnet. The drumming courtesy of Ben Byrne stands out, which is something rare and special.

Most importantly, the lyrical content is deep and thick with truth. Walsh is truly singing his heart out, and I would not be surprised if they brought a doctor to each show to perform surgery when Walsh walks off stage. He's forgotten his blood-pumper on the floor, you see.

Starsailor has a sound that can appeal to a lot of people for many different reasons; and above all that, the band is good, really truly good.

Here's hoping Starsailor will cross the pond and bring the dynamic force of *On the Outside* to our side of the Atlantic sometime soon.

By Cassandra Kyle



Stryper
Reborn
Big 3 Records

★★

Stryper is back!!!

Uh, Stryper? Yes. The 1980s Christian metal group has released *Reborn*, their first studio album since *Can't Stop the Rock* hit the shelves in '91. And you can definitely hear it.

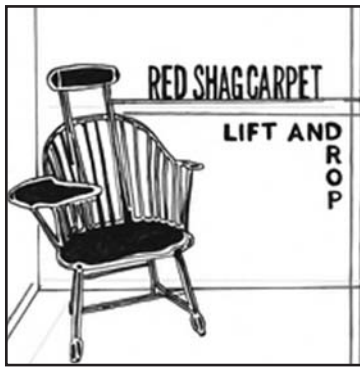
The first song on the album, "Open Your Eyes," brings the listener into the very familiar sound of early 80s metal that continues throughout the disc.

While I can't deny that each member of the band knows how to handle an instrument, I was certainly left wondering if the band as a whole has what it takes to make it in today's world of music.

With *Reborn*, Stryper continues to deliver the same message using the same over-done, even predictable sound that they began with in 1984. The album is highly uninventive excepting, perhaps, one track. "10,000 Years" is a different feel for the hymn *Amazing Grace*; however, even this song seems to be molded into the tiny crevice of creativity that can be found in the album.

On the other hand, the familiar and safe sound of *Reborn* may feel like a homecoming to long awaiting Stryper fans. If you like getting exactly what you expect, perhaps this album is for you.

By Lisa Pruden



Red Shag Carpet
Lift and Drop
Independent

★★★★★

While sitting around the *Intercamp* meeting table, I peruse the selection of CDs for review this week.

The pickins' were slim but fortunately there was a secret gem tucked away in there.

They're a local band, they have an aesthetically pleasing album cover, and they're called Red Shag Carpet. I was instantly sold.

It's not unusual for a situation like this to unfold into disappointment, but when I put on *Lift and Drop* the first time, I loved it. It's the kind of music that even though the lyrics can be somewhat dark and moody, the music makes you feel so damn happy that you want to dance around like a giddy child.

"Paint," which evokes a softer sway may be the only exception, but the tune still has the same 'sunshine after a rainy day' feeling that the others have.

This is definitely the album of choice when you need to dance off your frustrations.

Some bands have a difficult time playing with the same energy in the studio as they have onstage, but Red Shag managed to capture the energy of their live show flawlessly. No complaints about this album at all, it's solid all the way through.

I'll be eagerly awaiting their next CD release.

By Andrea Webster

FREE MOVIES

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INTERCAMP

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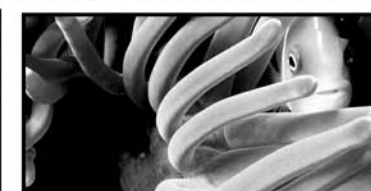
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INTERCAMP

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11am | South Campus Cafeteria | February 14th