

BOUCHARD, DUNAWAY & SMITH

"BACK FROM HELL"

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Bouchard, Dunaway & Smith Back From Hell

Reviewed by Classic Rock Revisited

Back From Hell

Kachina Records

What do you get when you take Blue Oyster Cult's bass player and mix in Alice Cooper's original drummer and bass player? The answer is a fist full of grinding, hot, sweaty and raunchy Rock-N-Frickin' Roll! First, you have to give Joe Bouchard (formerly of Blue Oyster Cult) a guitar to play instead of a bass and a microphone to sing in. Next, allow Smith to pound the drums like a tribal warrior and allow Dunaway to thunder away on the bass. Finally, lock them in a room until they come up with a CD full of music! It doesn't hurt to bring in Ian Hunter to co-write four tracks on the album either. The end result is one part BOC, two parts Alice and a twist of Mott The Hoople! If you think that sounds interesting then just wait until you hear the album!

Before going any further it is important to note that the songs are not cookie cutter molds of Blue Oyster Cult or Alice Cooper, although there are hints ("The Jokes On You" the former and "Snake Pit Boogie" the latter). *Back From Hell* is simply an in-your-face collection of songs that are fun, vibrant and easy to listen to. You won't have to wait long to shake your head and laugh either. The CD starts out with a song titled "I Like Two" in which Bouchard shares his feelings into his preference of the number of girls he likes to be with!

Ian Hunter co-wrote the song "Love You To Much." This is one of the strongest songs on the CD. The music swoons and builds to a climactic end. You can hear Hunter's influence and it works well in the confines of BDS. It is a shame that Top 40 radio is addicted to Hip-Hop, as if it were twenty years ago "Loves You To Much" would make a run at the charts. The song "She Was A Bad Girl" is best described as the Stray Cats on acid! The tune "Carnival Toy" is the strongest rock track on the disc. The songs first lead break is both hypnotic and spellbinding. Later in the track, Bouchard pounds the wah-wah like an epileptic sans medication!

On "The Real Thing," Dunaway takes over lead vocals and tells how the band truly views their music. He declares that you can take away the band members money and fame and what you have left is the real thing. The final song on the CD is called "Fallen Angel" and was written by Joe Bouchard with the late Helen Wheels. It is a nice touch to remember a true unsung hero of hard rock.

In the end, *Back From Hell* is a solid collection of songs. It is worth checking out. Fans of Blue Oyster Cult and Alice Cooper will definitely want to add it to their collection.