

VIRGIN STEELE

On October 31st...Halloween...**VIRGIN STEELE** will be re-releasing their albums **LIFE AMONG THE RUINS**, **THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & HELL "PART I"**, and **THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN & HELL "PART II"**. These discs will be issued in Europe through the German label Dockyard 1. All three albums will contain bonus tracks and new booklets containing many photos, and liner notes.



01. SEX RELIGION MACHINE
02. LOVE IS PAIN
03. JET BLACK
04. INVITATION
05. I DRESS IN BLACK (WOMAN WITH NO SHADOW)
06. CROWN OF THORNS
07. CAGE OF ANGELS
08. NEVER BELIEVED IN GOODBYE
09. TOO HOT TO HANDLE
10. LOVE'S GONE
11. SNAKESKIN VOODOO MAN-bonus track
12. WILDFIRE WOMAN
13. CRY FOREVER
14. HAUNTING THE LAST HOURS
15. LAST ROSE OF SUMMER

Additional Bonus Tracks:

16. SNAKESKIN VOODOO MAN-Live Acoustic Rehearsal Version
17. JET BLACK-Live Acoustic Rehearsal Version
18. PURPLE RAIN-Live Acoustic Rehearsal Version
19. WILDFIRE WOMAN-Live Acoustic Rehearsal Version

When LIFE AMONG THE RUINS first appeared it confused many people. Those who were first introduced to the music of VIRGIN STEELE through this particular album did embrace it warmly and then went on to discover all the other albums that we did. Those who had come on board a few years earlier and were perhaps expecting a NOBLE SAVAGE part 2 or a "Burning Of Rome" part 2 may have been disappointed, as this album is quite a departure from those Works. While it is a feature of the Group to always evolve and to try to bring something new to the table each time out, the direction that this album took was not at all premeditated. It came about very organically. We had been jamming quite a bit, and getting back into the roots of some of the kinds of things we all did when we first started playing music, and consequently and very naturally the album took on a very Bluesy character. We knew that it was not exactly the kind of over the top Epic Metal that we had come to be known for as exemplified on albums such as NOBLE SAVAGE, but we did feel that it was certainly aggressive, high energy, sensual, passionate, and Roaring! I think of it as Epic, Barbaric-Romantic Blues Metal! It is Symphonic at times, and often raw, and highly emotional. Every note was played with full on conviction, drama, power and sensitivity. We wanted balance...to combine the Power & the Might with delicacy and a sense of vulnerability. We wanted to paint a portrait...an image that conveyed expectation and uncertainty without any fear for what might be yet to come...

Those of you who "got it" and took it to your hearts the first time it was released will probably enjoy it once again...while those who did not...I would gather that you might not enjoy it this time around either, but if you do give it a chance and remember all those mad, bad,



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and dangerous relationships in your Life...well...then you just might find some space in your head for it, and something in it to relate to...

LIFE AMONG THE RUINS is in essence a Romantic album. It is tender at times...yet it never loses its swagger. Emotionally & Spiritually it sums up the turmoil that surrounded the Group during those heady days, and the lyrics reflect most personally upon my World...There is a great hunger here, deep passion, and restraint...sensibilities stretched to the breaking point...angst, anger, love, sex, seriousness and levity...When I listen to it I hear that untamed wildness...a wolf wailing in the wilderness...wounded, but ready to go...

A word or two about the Bonus tracks that were included..."Snakeskin Voodoo Man", (the full electric version), is a Blues Metal song that is meant to be both sensual and fun. We had been jamming this one in rehearsal for quite awhile so the recording of it went very smoothly with the song being played live and captured in the first or second take. A childhood friend of ours, Dave Ferrara, played the guitar solo. Edward & I met Dave when we were both about 10 or 11 years old, and have been jamming together with him ever since. Dave has a great soulful feel and true power in his hands.

The acoustic bonus tracks that we included here were recorded exactly as they appear in one take. These performances were captured during rehearsals in the living room of my house in front of the stone fireplace with a roaring fire going. Our good friend Mr. Buddy "Wayne" Lane captured Edward and I on a 2-track stereo mini-disc recorder as we blasted through a rather large PA that we had set up for about 3 years in my living room. We did several lengthy rehearsals that we recorded there, and we do intend to issue more of those recordings at a later date, quite possibly as a double or triple CD set. Some of those sessions were also filmed...It was a Magickal time with a great atmosphere...wine...fire,

candles...animals... We would begin around 2 or 3 in the afternoon, and play on through the gathering dusk and then Night...These aren't technically perfect recordings. These are possessed, raw emotional outpourings and explorations that showcase a different side of what we do. In this age of high-tech, hi-def, digitalization and overly produced CD's... we thought it might be nice to do something "low-tech" and completely without sweetening, something that would shine a light on the sweat, blood and the unvarnished essence of what makes the songs work. With all the instrumentation stripped away these performances unveil and reveal the core of the secret aspect of the Metal Spirit living inside the Steele.

We hope you will enjoy the fruits of our Savage Summer...and we wish you a most Glorious Autumn...

BY THE BLACK SUN & MOON...

David DeFeis , September 2008

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