

Entertainment

Flaming Lips join the 'Dark Side'

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When I heard The Flaming Lips were remaking Pink Floyd's album "Dark Side of the Moon," I almost threw up in my mouth. Why would any band ever touch such a masterpiece of an album? The Rolling Stone magazine named Pink Floyd's "Dark Side" number 43 on the 500 greatest albums of all time! In my mind, any band that tried to reproduce Pink Floyd's most successful album was doomed to fail. But I was wrong.

The Flaming Lips are known for being original with their eccentric song and album titles. Their live shows are also bizarre because of their use of costumes, puppets, and even a plastic bubble in which lead singer Wayne Coyne uses to walk on top of the audience. After learning this, I was interested to see how this version of Dark Side would turn out. "The Flaming Lips and Stardeath and White Dwarfs with Henry Rollins and Peaches Doing The Dark Side of the Moon" starts

out similarly to the original version with a heartbeat fading in and different voices talking. In the newest version, comedian/musician Henry Rollins recreates the speaking parts. To me, this is the downfall of the album. In the old version the narration sounded like spontaneous interviews. However, in the new version, Rollins' voice sounds too forced and emotionless. But as soon as the music kicked in, my ears opened up. "Breathe" has been revamped with a stalking bass line that is infectious to the brain. Layered on top of the bass is a dirty and distorted feedback that creates the reproduction of the Floyd's slide guitars. This effect creates a great blend of chaotic order. The next track "On the Run" is an interlude that has a real dance-rock feel to it. It closes out with a loud alarm (that actually startled me on first listen) that indicates it is time for "Time".

One of the coolest moments of this album is the beginning

of "Time". Heavy breathing and coughing are looped to create the beat of the intro to the song. After the blaring keyboards fade out, the soft and subtle voice of Coyne whimpers the lyrics of a depressing song. Yet again, the band uses

distortion and guitar feedback to create a fuzzy background wall of sound. However, the best moment of the album comes during "Great Gig in the Sky". If you are familiar with the original version of "Dark Side," then you know the amazing

vocal work on this track. Well, The Flaming Lips did it better. On top of a funky distorted bass, the high pitch shrills of singer Peaches tear up the track and really gives the album a great upbeat song.

One of the most famous songs from Pink Floyd's album is "Money," but The Flaming Lips did not redo this one very well. The vocal arrangement is the only thing enjoyable on the track, which is comparable to Peter Frampton's vocal effect in "Do You Feel Like We Do". However, it was done throughout the entire song and got repetitive all too quickly.

If you were a fan of Pink Floyd's original, you may not enjoy this new-wave rendition of a classic record. However, if the grooves in your old 45 are worn out, I suggest you give The Flaming Lips' version a try. It will hold your attention with all of the new sounds. Some songs are even better than the original. Of course, if you are a die-hard Floyd fan, then it might be hard to sway your decision. I really enjoyed hearing an old favorite turn into something more modern and in sync with today's generation.

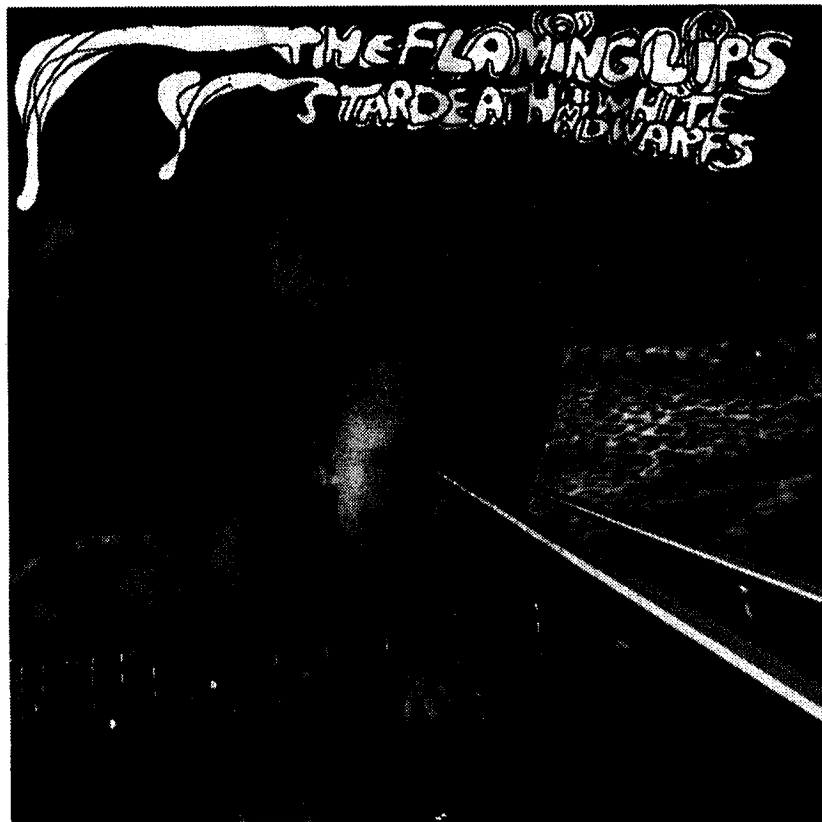


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The jihad against jihad

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"Blood maybe thicker than water, but for those who leave Islam, blood is spilled as easily as water," says the former terrorist Walid Shoebat in his highly acclaimed part-autobiographical book "Why We Want To Kill You." Walid Shoebat talks about the Islamic terrorist mindset and how to defeat it. This book is one of the most didactic and awe-inspiring book I have read in years. Who better to elucidate about the beliefs and actions of these widespread terrorists than a former terrorist himself? Walid Shoebat was born in Bethlehem of Judea, where he spent the first 33 years of his life hating non-Muslims, especially the Jews.

They believed the Jews were evil and caused of all their miseries. His father was Palestinian and his mother was American. He became a member of Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in his youth, and carried out several terrorist acts against Israel.

After entering the USA, he worked as a counselor for the Arab Student Organization at Loop College in Chicago, continuing his anti-Israel activities. He joined Muslim Brotherhood and was trained for Jihad (Holy War) in America. In 1993 he converted to Christianity, after being challenged by his Catholic wife, whom he was trying to convert into Islam. He studied both the Bible and secular history and learned that all he was taught about the Jews and Christians



had been a lie and became an advocate for Israel and against terrorism.

Printed in the United States. The point of this book is to help readers understand the Islamic

mindset, and to grasp what drives Islamic extremists towards hatred and violence against non-Muslims. He also wants to create awareness of the several dangers of such fundamentalism for the Americans.

The book depicts the regrets Walid feels as he looks back over 33 years of violence, the truths he learned regarding the Jews and Israel, and the lies he was taught for more than half his life by his own people.

This book fascinating because it describes the concepts of Jihad from the Quranic and Prophet Muhammad's teachings, well for the reader to try to contemplate why these young men and women carry out such heinous act in the name of religious wars.

The book starts off with the confessions of Walid

Shoebat and extends to various definitions and the history of Islamic fundamentalism: which subdivides to the racist attitudes, the history of Jihad, the reasoning behind Jihadist mindset, the psychological conditioning and the rewards for performing Jihad. In the end of the book he highlights an imperative issue for all Americans: how to deal with such fundamentalism that is spreading like a incurable cancer today. Shoebat talks about some of the key measures for eradicating such violent acts of terrorism in the United States. He explains the definition of God in Islam and other religions to make people understand how radical the Jihadist mindset is and what Americans will need to take this issue more seriously and defeat it.