

Buckethead – Pike 11 (2013)

Written by bluesever

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1 Untitled 5:00 2 Untitled 3:44 3 Untitled 8:49 4 Untitled 1:44 5 Untitled 6:10 6 Untitled 4:30 7 Untitled 1:29 Limited edition CDr hand drawn and numbered by Buckethead.

Buckethead is known for hurling riff after riff after riff at you in his metal songs, and *Forgotten Library* is certainly no exception. However, one unique stylistic input makes this something special: the album is chock-full of these entrancing acoustic interludes. Throughout almost all of these songs, there are a lot of acoustic sections that accompany the heavy riff sections. "Disintegration" alone cycles through a sizable amount of acoustic interludes. This factor not only makes the songs a lot more dynamic and interesting, but the acoustic sections are simply beautiful to hear.

Don't let the talk about the beautiful interludes be the sole description of the album, however. The album is home of some seriously heavy riffs, each of which flat-out destroy your face hole. The previously mentioned "Disintegration" along with "Corpse Be Animated" are each the heaviest on the album, featuring a boatload of thick, distorted riffs accompanied by those serene acoustic interludes. In many cases, it won't be just a quick acoustic section, but an entire song section that is led by the acoustic part. There have been countless times in which a band will try to play around with acoustic sections to try to add depth or dimension to their sound, but they will oftentimes fall on their face. Buckethead manages to weave polarizing values of heavy guitar riffing with peaceful acoustic snippets, making for a really enjoyable and often unpredictable ride.

The approach works amazingly, especially with Buckethead's talent for unleashing a myriad of different sounds and melodies in a single track. As a result of this somewhat strange take on making music, the album sounds like a progressive metal album with tinges of that classic Buckethead sound. With "Faded From View" we not only are treated to a handful of spectacular

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riffs and acoustic licks, but a long, funky solo at the end. "Beginning Putrification" sounds like an ode to some of the older Buckethead tunes, featuring straightforward riffs and a fantastic solo. To add a nice little cherry atop this tasty musical ice cream, Big B treats us to a sexy little funk solo on "Decay" before easing the album to a close with the gorgeous title track.

This album is exceedingly enjoyable, never getting stale, and always being a joy to listen to. The aggressive, borderline prog-metal influences that run rampant on this track combined with the beautiful acoustic licks make for a unique and incredibly stellar musical offering that will please newcomers and experienced Bucketbots alike. The only thing detracting from the quality of this Pike is the track "Yellowed Pages", which is about two minutes of weird guitar effects. Other than that, this is one of the most unique and enjoyable Pikes, and it's recommended to anybody interested in Buckethead or to the fans who haven't heard this yet. This one has always been a favorite of mine, along with a handful of the previous Pikes. Forgotten Library is without a doubt one of the highlights of the Pike series, and it is definitely one of the top tier Pikes. ---stainedclass2112, metal-archives.com

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