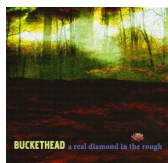


Buckethead - A Real Diamond In The Rough (2009)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 10 October 2009 15:32 - Last Updated Monday, 04 December 2017 15:46

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1. "Broken Mirror" - 4:16 –
2. "Big D's Touch" - 4:11 –
3. "Separate Sky" - 2:58 –
4. "Dawn Appears" - 3:46 –
5. "A Real Diamond in the Rough" - 4:08 –
6. "Sundial" - 1:04 –
7. "Squid Ink" - 3:05 –
8. "Four Rivers" - 2:38 –
9. "Allowed to Play" - 1:55 –
10. "Formless Present" - 3:44 –
11. "Squid Ink Part 2" - 0:56 –
12. "The Miracle of Surrender" - 5:37 –
13. "The Return of Captain EO" - 3:30 –

Drum Programming, Bass – Dan Monti Drums – Brain (tracks: 2, 4, 7) Engineer – Dan Monti
Guitar, Performer [Invisible Scalp] – Buckethead Mixed By – Dan Monti Producer – Albert, Dan Monti

Buckethead is a very unique and often misunderstood musician. He is proficient with so many genres that it's mindblowing. He can shred, he can riff, he can make you cry, he can make you laugh, he can scare you, he can play some MEAN funk basslines, he can drum, he can slay a keyboard, he can even make freaking techno music with a guitar. A lot of times Buckethead likes to let his experimental side shine through, but when he wants to focus on putting feeling, emotion, and soul into his work, the results are profoundly amazing. I am a massive Buckethead fan, being introduced to his work through the just as eclectic bass god Les Claypool, and there was a point in my life where I was either listening to Primus or Buckethead. I was actually a bigger fan of his softer material, although I loved his funk, metal, and avant-garde releases as well. When it comes to his softer, more peaceful and relaxing material, A Real Diamond In The Rough is my favorite from him. This album is an absolute musical masterpiece. Words cannot express how amazing this is. This is a tapestry of true musical beauty weaved by a true musical

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master.

A Real Diamond in the Rough takes you on a journey, it touches on melancholy and joy, loneliness and happiness, and everything in between. The album's progression can really be thought of as an experience. It starts off rather upbeat and happy, with some awesome, heavier riffs offset with charming soloing. The album continues down a similar path for the first two thirds of the album, with generally more peaceful, but mid-paced to faster tracks that weave in and out with a spectacular atmosphere. There are some parts that dabble in eerie or sad, but the tone (I mean literary tone, not literal tone) generally will fluctuate between different levels of happiness or peace. The musical style for this first two thirds is generally composed of straightforward styled songs full of rich solos, interesting interludes, and catchy yet peaceful riffs. There are no lyrics to any of this, but it doesn't need any whatsoever. Buckethead conveys exactly what he wants to through each note he plays. Some of the solos are magical, the solos from "Dawn Appears", "Separate Sky", and the title track are marvelous. Once the short and delightful "Four Rivers" finishes, then the album drastically shifts gears. It enters the really sad part of the album. "Allowed to Play", "Formless Present", "Squid Ink Part 2", and "The Miracle of Surrender" are all pretty depressing and dark. They are all slow and absorbed, sometimes it will be a few seconds between notes. This part of the album is just as good, just extremely sad. "Allowed to Play" always makes me wanna cry, it is absolutely depressing; and keep in mind: no lyrics. "Squid Ink Part 2" is quite simple and is just a simple arpeggio played up and down, yet it is very atmospheric and for a 50 second song, it's amazing. Once the album finishes this section, in comes "The Return of Captain EO", which changes the tone one final time. This is the heaviest song on the album, kicking in with a killer riff and some neat sections and licks. This song ends the album on a high note, rather than ending on a somber one. I think that this makes the album even more powerful, as I find that ending the record with a sad song would harm the overall feel.

Everything on this album is done masterfully, and while it might not be his most technically blistering work, it is definitely one of his best releases. This is saying a LOT, as Buckethead has released album after album of quality material. The playing is magnificent, and the production is top notch. The infamous Brian Mantia plays drums on a few songs here and he does a great job, as does the producer, who also plays the basslines. This is one of the albums that I can recommend to everybody reading this. This album isn't for fans of just one specific genre, this will be a wonderful listening experience to everybody who hears this. Amongst all of the other millions of hours of music out there, both good and bad, this album truly is, A Real Diamond in the Rough. ---stainedclass2112, metal-archives.com

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