

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PURE METAL **FREE CD!**

# BW&BK

## Brave Words & Bloody Knuckles



KnuckleTracks LXXXV

17 Mosh-Pit Pleasers!

# BRA

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### QUO VADIS

#### Defiant Imagination (Skyscraper)

It's been four years since Quo Vadis' last record, Day For Night - four years, honing their art, seeking an identity, escaping the clutches of a piss-poor label and here they stand. Quite the feat that the Montreal-based trio are actually still standing. You know damn well that Quo Vadis have a keen grasp of their surroundings with the likes of Kataklysm and Cryptopsy dominating the scene's reputation worldwide. So why not bring in a legendary guest to up the ante? Upon the first listen to Defiant Imagination (originally titled To The Bitter End), the inclusion of bassist Steve DiGiorgio (Sadus, Testament, Death, Control Denied, now Sebastian Bach!) in the project adds icing to an otherwise delectable piece of cake. Leadoff cut 'Silence Calls The Storm' is an immediate call to arms embodying technical wizardry with a looming death metal presence much like Pestilence's Testimony Of The Ancients triumph. And amidst Stephane Pare's guttural bellowing (he'll be nicknamed "Death Raid Siren" after his performance on 'Silence Calls The Storm!'), drummer Yanic Bercier's insane, yet properly timed blastbeats and the matured leads of Bart Frydrychowicz, the material is calculated with precision and hours of honing. With acclaimed producer Pierre Remillard at the helm and a final mix at Morrisound, the complete package is punishing. Yet the polished outcome sounds like a Dieter Dierks Accept/Scorpions pilgrimage. While 'Break The Cycle', 'Fate's Descent' and 'Tunnel Effect (Element Of The Ensemble IV)' may forge their way with neckbrace speed, the melancholic choir that commences 'Dead Man's Diary' and ends the revenge-inspired closer 'Ego Intuo Et Servo Te' are truly epic in size. Let this one sink in and you'll be hooked. A testimony to forward-thinking metal indeed.

**Tim Henderson . . . . . 8.5**

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## OF THE YEAR!

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In STORES  
1.25/05

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PURE METAL **FREE CD!**

# BW&BK

Brave Words & Bloody Knuckles



17 Mosh-Pit Pleasers!

recorded rumblings unleashed!

## HardWares

Based on the good ol' rating out of ten, Hard-Wares is judged on a basket of goods containing song-writing, musicianship, production, creativity and overall coolness: 1 - actively, violently, heinously awful. 5 - mired in mediocrity, lost in the pack. 10 - god-like and majestic, basking in brilliance. You fill in the obvious blanks.

### BRAVE PICKS 85

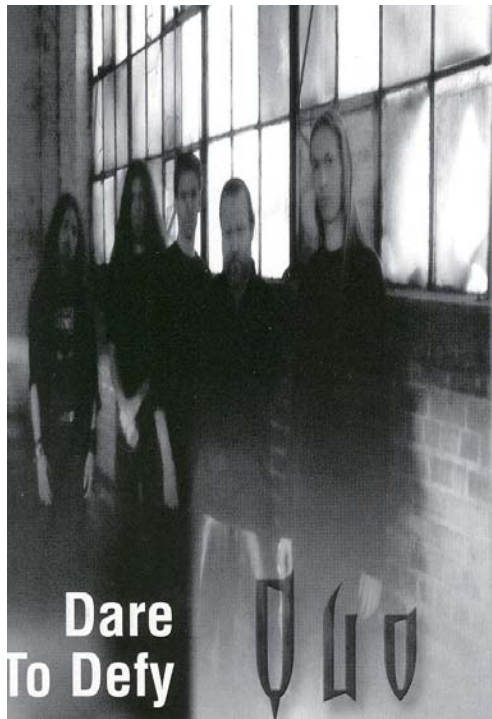
	TIM HENDERSON	MARTIN POPOFF	CARL BEGAL	ALLAN CRUSIE	MARK GROMEN	DAVID PERRI	AARON SMALL	DOM LAWSON	JACKI SHORT	AVERAGE
1) ROTTING CHRIST - Sanctus Diavolos (Century Media)	7.5	9	8.5	8	6.5	7	8	8	7.5	7.8
2) PAINMUSEUM - Metal For Life (CMM)	7	8	8	8	8	8	7	6.5	7.5	7.6
2) DEREK SHERINIAN - Mythology (InsideOut)	8	7.5	8	7.5	6	7	9	7.5	8	7.6
4) QUO VADIS - To The Bitter End (Skyscraper)	8.5	8	7	7	7	8	7	6	7	7.3
4) MNEMIC - The Audio Injected Soul (Nuclear Blast)	6	8	8	7.5	7	7	8	6.5	6.5	7.2
6) SONATA ARCTICA - Reckoning Night (Nuclear Blast)	7	7	8.5	6	7.5	5	7	8	7.5	7.1
7) GOD DETHRONED - The Lair Of The White Worm (Metal Blade)	8	8.5	7.5	6.5	6	7	7	5.5	7	7.0
7) IMPIOUS - Hellucinate (Metal Blade)	6.5	8	8	7	7.5	7.5	7.5	5	6	7.0
9) CATARACT - With Triumph Comes Loss (Metal Blade)	7	7.5	7	8	6	7.5	7	6	6	6.9
9) JON OLIVA'S PAIN - 'Tage Mahal (SPV)	8.5	6	9	9	6	3	7	6	8	6.9
11) THE CHASM - The Spell Of Retribution (Wicked World)	6.5	5.5	7	6.5	7	7	7.5	8.5	5	6.7
11) GOD AMONG INSECTS - World Wide Death (Threeman)	7.5	9	8	7	4	7	5	6	6.5	6.7
13) DAYSEND - Severance (Metal Blade)	6	7.5	7.5	8	4	6	8	7	5	6.6
14) SEVEN WITCHES - Year Of The Witch (Noise)	7	5.5	7.5	8.5	7.5	3.5	6	6	7	6.5
15) PIG DESTROYER - Terrifyer (Relapse)	5.5	6.5	6.5	5.5	3	8.5	4	8.5	4	5.8
16) YOB - The Illusion Of Motion (Metal Blade)	4	6.5	6	6	6	6.5	3	7.5	3	5.4

ISSN 1705-3781  
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SIX FEET UNDER ✕ PIG DESTROYER ✕ INCANTATION  
JAG PANZER ✕ HANKER ✕ QUO VADIS ✕ MESHUGGAH  
THE CHASM ✕ SONATA ARCTICA ✕ UNEARTH



IN STORES  
1.25/05



## Dare To Defy

# Quo Vadis

By David Perri

Despite the doomsayers and the reams of negative press, the music industry is still a world of opportunity. Success in the biz is obviously a relative term, some bands content just to get on the road while others go through 'tragic' (tic tic tic tic tic) bouts of pouring if their latest record only goes double platinum. What each faction shares, however, is a drive to bring its emotional release to the masses, and a determination to accomplish at all costs. And that's kinda where Quo Vadis stands. Though the band has achieved renown in the past, guitar player Ract Frydrychowicz and drummer Yanic Bercier are hell-bent on taking Quo Vadis to the next level. It helps that Steve DiGiorgio sessioned on the new record, *Defiant Imagination*, and that it was mixed at famed Morrisound Studio. But the real ace (of spades) up Quo Vadis' collective sleeve is *Defiant Imagination's* pedigree. This is the band's best work hands down, a record that presents its quality and heightened sense of dynamic, texture and songcraft from first listen onwards.

"There's not much use making a record if you're not trying to beat your previous albums," begins Bercier. "That's always been our main goal."

"I agree," continues Frydrychowicz. "We've grown as musicians since *Day Into Night*, and it's four years later. You learn from so many different perspectives in that time. We're hoping the maturity really shows through. This record has been two years in the making, two years of thinking about the songs over and over. In the end, taking so long benefited us. We really made a disadvantage into an advantage."

Much has changed in the Quo Vadis camp since *Day Into Night*, and explanations are surely in order. First up is the presence of DiGiorgio on the record (for a more in-depth account, see Issue 74), as Frydrychowicz explains. "When (ex-bass player) Remi decided he didn't want to be involved in music anymore, we had to start thinking of bass players to play on the album. I mentioned Steve and everyone immediately laughed. They were like, 'Why the hell would Steve want to play with Quo Vadis? Who the hell are you guys?' But I thought it wouldn't hurt trying. We sent him some of the songs we were working on, and he liked the material so he played on the record."

The next step in *Defiant Imagination's* creation was Morrisound Studio. "Morrisound was a major milestone for the band," Bercier enthuses. "It was such an historical and musical experience for us. We originally

started writing in April or May 2002," continues Frydrychowicz. "At first Yanic was like, 'C'mon, let's stop writing! Let's get this out!' But I kept writing. And after six months, Yanic started telling me to take all the time I needed. And it just went from there. We re-recorded some parts three times. We'd go back to the studio a month later with a different perspective, so we'd re-record them. With the guitars, I really tried to add and not mimic every time I'd re-record or overdub. We took all this time because we wanted to explore music for what it is: music. If it's from the heart and if you personally feel it, then that's what you've got to capture."

"And that's what made this album so difficult to mix and master," Bercier chimes in. "At Morrisound they'd ask what records we could use as a model for *Defiant Imagination's* direction, but I couldn't recommend any because I couldn't really put this album into words."

"So we told them let's try and make this a mix of Dimmu Borgir and Dream Theater," finishes Frydrychowicz. "Those are two different animals, but we wanted the clarity of Dream Theater and the intensity of Dimmu's mastering. It was a weird balancing act in the end, clarity versus energy. We didn't just want to capture a cymbal crash - we wanted to capture how the cymbal was hit."

Now that the band members have finally released the product they so diligently crafted, their next goal is taking Quo Vadis to that coveted "next level."

Says Frydrychowicz: "Steve opened our eyes to so many things. I asked Steve how different bands work... I asked what happened when big bands like *Iced Earth* or *Testament* had members leave. And he just told me that you find someone new and move on. It's OK that someone has left, as long as the core of the group is still there. If the new member fits, then they will grow with the band. If not, they go away. In the last two years, Quo Vadis has moved forward more than in the past ten years. We realized we were putting so much energy into just keeping the band together, and now that we don't have that issue anymore we can put all our energy into writing and pushing the band even further. We want to take this as far as we can. There are no limits on this band from our side. We want to tour the States and Europe and nothing will stop us. Schedules won't stop us, nothing. This is it. It's hard and it's expensive. And you have to make lots of sacrifices, especially in your personal life and career. But in the end, you have to make a decision: are you going to do it or not? We have our education and we have experience in our careers away from music, and we know we can go back to those in a few years. So, for now, we're giving everything we've got to Quo Vadis and this new record."

"You look at *Cryptopsy* and *Kataklysm* and *Anonymus*," Bercier begins. "And they've done US and European touring. They've done things internationally, and we'd like to see if we can do that for this record."

"Any scene has basic dynamics," Frydrychowicz theorizes. "If you give attention to a scene, you'll do well in that scene. But you have to work for it. You have to be present. You can just expect people to be on their knees because you showed up in their city." ☸



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QUO VADIS



Defiant Imagination

"Defiant Imagination", complete with a Jim Morris mix and guest bass legend Steve DiGiorgio, is a juggernaut of complex death and destruction that nods towards vintage Carcass for inspiration. *Tim Henderson (BW&BK)*

Quo Vadis has, hands-down, crafted the best work of its career. By fusing a heightened sense of texture, dynamic and, above all, song-writing prowess, "Defiant Imagination" will weigh in as one of 2004's finest if there is any justice in this world. *David Perri (BW&BK)*

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