

Rating

10

SEPULTURA

Chaos A.D.
(Roadrunner/Epic)

One thing the Baby Boomers will never understand is a band like Sepultura. How could anyone like a bunch of scroungy, metalloids who create meaty meals of skull bashing, repetitive noise?

How could anyone not like 'em?

Serve it up and show it off at your next dinner party. *Chaos A.D.* is easily the best metal platter of the past two or three years.

Sepultura are riff piranhas, ferociously attacking the underbelly of each song by chewing up and spitting out wave after wave of sound. The Brazilian 'Bangers have learned their lessons well from Metallica and Slayer. Originally, speed was the most notable element of their repertoire. Now, having eased up on the accelerator ever so slightly, Sepultura has created a more powerful voice without sacrificing itself to commercialism.

Led by screamer/guitarist Max Cavalera, the band has upgraded itself into metal's elite. As in 1991's *Arise*, intelligent lyrics are an added touch to this masterpiece. But they don't carry the band. The furious, polished playing of Cavalera, his brother/drummer Igor, guitarist Andreas Kisser and bassist Paulo, Jr., concoct a musical potion hard to resist.

A few standouts:

- "Slave New World": A frantic chorus provides the framework for one of the top tunes on the disc. Churning guitars chase one another over thundering drums and kick it into their highest gear just moments before the song ends -- kind of like getting a taste of the ultimate food only to have it yanked out of your mouth.

- "Refuse/Resist": Opening track sums up one of the album's themes. Chaos rules the world and Max is sick of it. "What is this Shit?!" he screams seconds before the world is told to "Refuse/Resist."

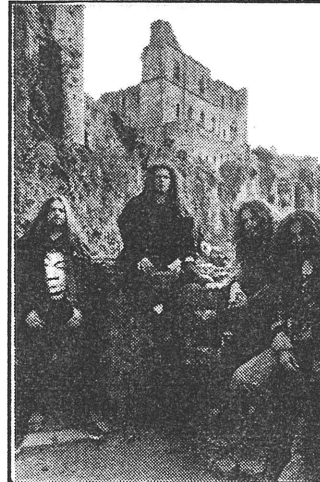
- "Kaiowas": An "acoustic" instrumental which still hammers the point home. Liner notes describe it as a tribute to a Brazilian Indian tribe which committed mass suicide to protest their government's attempt to take away their rain forest land.

- "Biotech Is Godzilla": Social commentary on the recent hot topic of scientific progress, genetic experimentation. It is one of the rare thrash songs on *Chaos A.D.* and even has a little crossover influence in it. Chillingly, the song ends with Max asking, "Biotech -- Is A.I.D.S.?"

- "Manifest": Tells the gruesome tale of a 1992 riot in South America's largest jail which left over one hundred inmates dead at the hands of police brutality. Much of it is narrated, barely intelligible over Igor's pounding drums.

The stickwork on *Chaos A.D.* is one of the most notable improvements in Sepultura's sound. Going with more of a tribal approach has brought the drums to the forefront instead of just being content to continually hammer away at a double bass.

All of this description is actually quite worthless. Words on paper cannot come close to matching what you hear when you hit the "Play" button. And I've been hitting it often.



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