

MUEN MAGAZINE CALIFORNIA

WAKING THE DEAD

It was with great anticipation that the new Anubis CD arrived for listening and review after hearing the quality in their previous CD. There was no disappointment at all and in fact the music has been refined and become even better. Ethereal female vocals with hard pounding riffs alternate with strong male lead vocals and edgier classic rock styles that makes a distinctively Anubis signature sound return in full force to "Waking The Dead." The entire band is mixed exceptionally well for the album so that every element is presented in a brilliant shining light. The CD is worth listening to intently to hear the guitar shreds and reverb outro's that can be found on most of the songs in different varieties and make for such a great listening of guitar technique.

Their sound could best be compared to the icons of Nightwish or Within Temptation but they have a definite hauntingly beautiful and heavy edge style that is all Anubis! As with especially Nightwish, the songs get a harder edge and full on rock with a great male lead vocal taking the forefront such as in "Til It Hurts" and "In Your Mind." The silky female vocals merge so astonishingly with rock backing music and complement the stellar lyrics no matter what the tempo, feel or message they are trying to get across. Their sound takes on a great mixture of Swedish and British rock with driving riffs and the perfect blend of change of tempos to make the songs intriguing from start to finish. "My God" is particularly interesting for the lyrics which are not what you expect but are adroitly done and with great drums and percussion added in to compliment those silky vocals. "Without Anaesthetic" is a flawless example of what a modern rock song should sound like with stunning song structure and the greatest mix and balance of all elements including the guitars and vocals and outstanding lyrics. All of these pieces make this the standout track of the album. "Hold Me Now" is a great song worth mentioning as it departs some from their signature sound but really makes a statement on the album for implementing almost a southern rock and bluesy flavor into a rock ballad. They place a complete instrumental in the middle of the album and at the very end but the quality is so high that it fits in without losing any momentum. There is even some acoustic guitar work that is worth buying the album just to hear within these tracks.

This album is filled with thirteen full tracks that leave you feeling as if you got every bit of your money's worth with the superiority and performance of each and every song. This is one band that absolutely lives up to their name by assuming different roles in various contexts to make

for a great rock album. The only departure from the name is there is nothing dead or funereal about the album and actually just the opposite and alive to the fullest! This is a must buy album for anyone that wants a pure rock album with an ancient and contemporary twist.

FAN CLUB REVIEW UK

music reviewer around, at least I'm going to be one of the first for this album! Here is my personal review of 'Sibuna' by Anubis.

The album opens with 'Little Picture'. Sarah's Co'Burn's voice echoes and wafts over a backdrop of heavy bass and drums, accompanied by energetic power chords and guitar riffs. The disquieting lyrics set the scene perfectly. Anubis have arrived to rock your soul!

Pete Williamson's bass fades to end the track, bringing us to the opening synth chords of 'The Pharaoh'. This instrumental track features as good guitar playing as you'll hear anywhere. Simon Lees squeezes every manner of sound from his guitar in this song.

Again, the track features great pounding bass lines from Pete and if you don't find yourself playing air guitar to this one, it's probably because you're already playing air bass! The track storms along, assisted in no small part by some strong drumming, before ending as it began with a synthesiser chord that segues us into 'Your World'.

Another strong track, 'Your World' is a mysterious, magical song, an ode to a vampire. The mix of energetic playing with Sarah's ethereal, seemingly effortless vocals, again works well. They have managed to produce a style that is their own and undeniably 'Anubis'. Refreshing in an age where many bands doggedly follow an accepted 'format'.

Simon Lees takes the lead vocal on the next song, 'Stalked By Sadness'. This is Anubis slowing things down a little, only a little mind you. Another great showcase for Simon's remarkable guitar playing, accompanied by Pete on acoustic. Playing the album for about the tenth time for this review, I realised one of the things that draws me to the music of Anubis is their ability to provide light and shade. No relentless churning out of the same musical style on every track for this band!

Another track with vocals by Lees follows, 'Magic Carpet'. A very Egyptian feel to this song and another fine and powerful piece of music. I enjoy it more and more on repeated listens. A real 'grower'.

'Us' follows with Sarah on vocals. One of the album's quieter moments, with Sarah's marvellous voice accompanied by acoustic guitar and some quite lovely flamenco style flourishes.

Heavier in style but again at a slower pace, the next track, 'Masquerade', features Sarah's voice and once again, a dark and fascinating song that plays on your emotions.

The guys get another turn on vocals for the very catchy 'No One Is Immortal'. A real rhythmic anthem, this one and I can already visualise the crowd head-banging to it at some future Anubis gig. It reminded me of early Black Sabbath but again, it's pure Anubis with a few twists and turns that I'll leave you to discover for yourselves!

'Dual On The Nile' follows. At first I wondered whether it should have been "duel" instead but then I got it. The twin guitars of Simon Lees and Andy Hart on this instrumental say it all. We're in the territory of some of my favourite music here, Thin Lizzy, Allman Brothers and Wishbone Ash. Do Anubis manage to pull it off? Oh yeah! Superb musicianship .

There's probably a back story to the title of the next track too but I'm not aware of it. 'Angry Dolphins' allows Simon Lees' guitar to soar. Wah wah that'd make Satriani sit up and take notice, accompanied by a stomping rhythm from Pete's bass. Quality.

A real treat follows, in my opinion. 'Your World Vampire Mix' is Anubian music to waltz to. Well, maybe not quite but it's a delightful version of 'Your World'. Sarah's voice sounds brilliant, supported by Spanish guitar. Think Anubis unplugged.

The album ends with two bonus tracks. First there is the instrumental version of 'Stalked By Sadness'. Excellent and I never tire of it.

Finally, there is 'Anubian Dream'. Spanish guitar plays over swirling synthesiser and a phased, modern dance-like drum beat. Just when you thought you'd got a handle on Anubis' music, something different again.

So, there you have it, my early impressions of 'SIBUNA', an album I shall be playing many more times in the future. Thoroughly recommended for its quality of vocals, musicianship, variety and production. A number of the band's members have quite a musical pedigree.

Nevertheless...

that this is their debut album together is nothing short of amazing.

WELSH MAGAZINE

After a hard day at the office, drinking coffee and scratching my arse, there's nothing more I like to do then head back to the Squalid Apartment and listen to hoary old rock music - the type of shit that you discover while rifling through yer dad's personal possessions while searching for the old bastard's will. It was by doing this that I discovered [Budgie](#), a Welsh trio that have been in existence since 174AD and that are still notching up road miles as we speak.

But it's not Budgie who your intrepid reviewer is on about today - oh no, it's something far better.

[Anubis](#) are a quartet featuring two guitarists both of whom have served time in said band and, it has to be said, both of whom are rather fantastic guitarists. Tempering the rock excesses of [Andy Hart](#) and [Simon Lees](#) are bassist and creative mainman Peter Williamson and his daughter, vocalist & eyecandy Sarah Cockburn.

Now all this quality does come with a health warning. Mr Williamson is a renowned Hawkwind fan and, while being a very nice chap indeed, this does render him prone to talking bollocks - head over to Anubis' [myspace page](#) and you'll find a lot of twaddle about the band 'carrying your soul over the Nile' and other such nonsense. However, get past all that mystic claptrap and you have an album that, while never breaking new ground, is good solid rock music that covers a lot of bases from Eastern melodies, through folk influences and ending up at Rock Central.

However it's true that one man's meat is another man's poison and, while I think this shizzle is an excellent way to spend £12, it's surely not for everyone. So head to their site (they'll carry your soul across the Nile if you ask 'em nicely) and have a listen for yourself. Tell 'em I sent you.

G-Man signing out xxx.

THE ROCK & ROLL REPORT - CANADA

Anubis was an Egyptian god who was the protector of the spirits of the dead. He was also said to have invented mummification. But the reason that this name fits the band so well is that one of the functions Anubis had was after the dead were sealed into their tomb, it was his job to awaken the soul.

The band Anubis does just that. With a combination of of musical styles that boggle the mind, they will not only take your breath away, they will bring to life all that is buried down in the hidden depths of what we call our soul.

Progressive music is a term that covers a lot of territory. That's good, or I wouldn't have a label to put on this band. From edgy rock and roll to intricately weaved bits with a Gaelic flavor, Anubis makes a statement that is hard to ignore.

From the quirky albums opening number, "**Little Picture**", there is no doubt something special is going on here. This is not just an ordinary piece of music. With a very heavy guitar laid down by Simon Lees, also known as The Pharaoh, the feeling is that this is going down the metal path. That is, until you get your first taste of the haunting vocals of Isis, also known as Sarah Co'burn. This lady reminds me so much of Annie Haslam from Renaissance it is uncanny. Her multi octave range is something to behold. On this particular song it gives a haunting, surreal feel that perfectly fits this intoxicating piece.

This band has so much to offer. Without missing a beat, guitarist Simon Lees gives you a scorching demonstration of his skill with the instrumental "**The Pharaoh**". This one, so aptly titled after his nickname, is one of the highlights of the disc. It is all Simon and what a great display of guitar virtuosity. This will make you wonder why his name is not ranked up there with the likes of Satriani.

Simon also provides lead vocals on such tunes as the dreamy "**Stalked By Sadness**", the heavy "**Magic**

Carpet" and once again in the irresistible **"No One Is Immortal"**. He has a voice made for rock and roll. He is definitely from the old school as the songs that he takes the lead on have a very classic rock feel, with a little bit of jazz thrown in for good measure.

Andy Hart, who also goes by the name of The Sphinx, gets a chance to show off his considerable six string abilities on such offerings as the terrific **"Masquerade"** and he gets to trade licks with Lees on the battle of guitar supremacy **"Dual On The Nile"**. This is a band with a heavy metal heart and they have two guys with huge ones in this pair.

One of the problems with reviewing this band is they are like trying to get the last pea on your plate with a fork. Each time you think you got it, it squirts off in a different direction. Such is the way with Anubis. Just when I have them pegged as a hard rocking guitar band, they pull out something like the eerie **"Your World Vampire Waltz"**. Acoustic guitar with a Spanish flavor adds to the spice as Sarah gives you a chance to be mesmerised once more. She has an almost goth like quality that is perfect for this little tale.

Taken as a whole, the album *Sibuna*, is a real gem. I am a sucker for great guitar work and there is plenty

MUEN MAGAZINE USA

ANUBIS (Sibuna)

By Darron Markwood

Like the jackal-headed god bearing their name, Anubis has created its debut album, "Sibuna", to "carry your soul across the Nile" to your final resting place with its eastern Celtic metal sounds and lineup named straight out of Egyptian folklore. The band was formed in May 2007 by a father and daughter combination, Pete "Anubis" Williamson and Sarah "Isis" Co'burn, and is rounded out by a supporting cast of Simon "The Pharaoh" Lees and Andy "The Sphinx" Hart. While the musicians and their alter egos sound right out of an Indiana Jones movie, don't translate the scroll without breaking the seal on the CD and giving it a good listen. Anubis mainly sticks to some strong chanting vocals from Isis on most of their vocal tracks, but the strength of this album lies in their instrumental tracks. The combination of guitars and synthesizers give some great Satriani-esque "Summer Song" style songs that pump your blood from start to finish. The first instrumental, "The Pharaoh", starts with a soothing rock melody but transitions with a bite to keep you hooked throughout the entire seven minutes of the song. Don't be scared off by the names of the two other main instrumentals, "Dual On The Nile" and "Angry Dolphins", either! The use of the synthesizers on "Angry Dolphins" definitely clarifies the name with a very cool twist to a rhythmic beat as you literally hear the angry dolphins. "Dual On The Nile" has the energy of two speedboats racing against each other on the

famous river as the two guitarists give their speed version of 'dueling banjos' with guitars. As for vocal tracks, Anubis does carry over their instrumental talent to "Magic Carpet", which suits this band to a tee. The lyrics take you on a trip more intellectual than the Steppenwolf 'ride' recalling Egyptian lore in the first stanza and traveling throughout the whole song. Isis really shines on the slower, acoustical sounding "Us", which shows her powerful tone with a Sarah McLachlan type of vocal range throughout the lyrics about the relationship she resides in. For the instrumental tracks alone, the debut album from Anubis definitely stands out like a pyramid in the desert. You can learn more about the band and purchase the album by visiting myspace.com/theanubisprojectuk.

JUSTINE FREELANCE WRITER UK

Sibuna - Anubis

It's been a while since guitarist Andy Hart opted to leave a 'Life in San Antonio' following his brief spell with Welsh rockers Budgie; a subsequent magic carpet ride to the Valley of the Kings would lead nicely to the mysterious, eccentric and sometimes eerie debut from Anubis.

A work of great contrast and occasional conflict, nonetheless, the album excels with the heartfelt lyrics and haunting vocals of singer/songwriter Sarah Co'burn; 'Us' is a wonderful emotional expression of self, the definitive vocals align nicely with the underlying messages from her poetic excellence, tinged with a sensitive acoustic guitar melody.

'Masquerade' borders on a Hawkwind-esque psychedelic excursion, which could lend itself to more fuzzy overtones to complete such a journey, while 'No One is Immortal' takes on the unconventional, bouncing into some sophisticated jazzy passages. Think deserted ballrooms as 'My World – Vampire's Waltz' almost enters into the realms of a vintage 30's thriller, and if it's a guitar marathon you crave check out the athletic workout of 'The Pharaoh'. For deeper expression and a darker edge, 'Little Picture' gives way with a strong hook and catchy bass line.

Overall, Sibuna hosts a worthy introduction to some new talent and with the band already working on a follow-up release, we won't be party to any broken remains amongst the tombs just yet.

Jus Forrest, July 2008

GD MAN OF METAL - UK

The Bandolier bash 2 at the Intake club in Mansfield is the sequel to an event that happened at Potters in Langley Mill a few years ago; although I was at the Bando Bash 1 don't ask me about it because little of that evening remains in my memory. Tonight's event is a more lavish affair, organised by members of

the Bandolier fan club featuring the debut live performance by the band Anubis and a trip down memory lane with In For The Kill Britain's premier Budgie tribute act.

Anticipation has moved into overdrive by the time Anubis enter the fray, they've made their fans wait a very long time for this moment and after an interminably long intro it's show time. Opening with your world the third track from their debut album sibuna (Anubis spelt backwards) lead singer Sarah Co' burn (Isis) is struggling to be heard, with a quiet singing voice the sound system is having difficulties amplifying her enough without feeding back. Fortunately these issues are sorted out fairly quickly. Magic Carpet the second song of the set comes to the rescue with lead guitarist Simon Lees (The Pharaoh) handling the lead vocal duties, the audience are watching the performance intently and applauding enthusiastically throughout. Anubis have links to Budgie, Simon Lees is an ex-lead guitarist as was Andy Hart (The Sphinx) who co wrote and performed on the album but has since left the band. Taking centre stage for Anubis tonight is Sarah's father Pete Williamson (The Jackal) on bass guitar, Pete is the rock that the band are anchored to throughout their first live performance. After no one is immortal probably Anubis' heaviest song of the night again voxed by Simon comes a drum solo, now it's traditional for most people to rush to the bar or the 'rest room' during a drum solo but I can tell you those who did missed a treat. Kev Bartlett (Osiris) is a consummate percussionist and excels throughout not only his solo piece but the entire set. With an encore of All About Eve's Martha's Harbour (Sarah's vocal style is very similar to Julianne Regan) and Simons trade mark number the Pharaoh Anubis exit stage left to an amazing cheer. Summing up their debut I'd say that the band (Sarah in particular) were mightily relieved to get that particular monkey off their back and I recon with a rock/folk rock style to their music Anubis will be a wow at open air festivals which I know they've got lined up in particular the summer solstice festival in Buith Wells Wales later in the year. Lying in the sun taking in the rays listening to Anubis reminiscing of old days could be one for the future there.

FAN CLUB GIG REVIEW

The trip to Mansfield

Okay, I've had the chance to get my breath back so here is my extremely personal review of the ANUBIS gig at The Intake, Mansfield, Saturday, March 28th 2009.

I'll admit it. I was so stoked by the idea of the Rock Against Child Pornography gig in May, that I'd forgotten to make arrangements for the little piece of rock history that would be ANUBIS playing The Intake at the end of March. Work had been busy to say the least and I hadn't allowed myself to think about it. Well, not until Sunday, 1st March and the Anubis private party. Pete asked me if I was staying over in Mansfield the night of their first gig and I answered something like "Well, mate, I've not thought about it yet but... yes, I will!"

On my return home to the Wirral, I did the Google map thing. Jeez, 130 miles! Ah well, how could I possibly miss it? The thought of a long drive alone didn't fill me with joy so I was delighted when long time mate, Ronnie, said he'd like to come too. I checked the Net again and there was a Travelodge less

than two miles away from the gig. I booked two rooms right away, job done!

Come the Saturday of the gig, I woke at a reasonable hour, breakfasted, bathed and packed a bag. No need to set off early, I headed for Ronnie's house in Liverpool knowing this would be the most difficult part of the trip (I'm useless with directions!).

Finding Ronnie's house with only a few wrong turns, we set off. It was a pleasant drive with Ronnie's Sat nav on his phone causing some hilarity. 'Kate' as she/it was known had a tendency to get distances wrong, warning me to make turns long before they were necessary. Still, that's a good thing, right? Of course, when we were nearly in Mansfield, 'Kate' decided to look at distances in a totally different light. A situation that caused a manoeuvre on my part that made me glad nobody else was watching!

The Travelodge wasn't in the most salubrious of settings but it was clean and functional, as Travelodges tend to be. I still prefer them to many hotels and B&Bs. After checking in, we looked for somewhere for a bite to eat. Frankie and Benny's on our doorstep seemed a good idea until we were told we might be waiting up to an hour. ANUBIS wouldn't wait that long so we set off in the direction of the big yellow 'M'. MacDonald's would have done but thankfully there was a pub next to it...no contest! A pint and a pleasant enough meal later, we got back to the Travelodge in time to have a quick cuppa then meet a previously booked taxi for the short journey to The Intake.

Before the gig

First impressions of The Intake weren't great. There was a little stage but no gear set up. We found out in time that the gig was in another, larger room. A little heads up from someone would have been nice!



As I looked around from our table, I saw many people, though few I recognised and they from MySpace! Then a familiar face came into the room and I got up to say hello to Pete the Jackal. Now Pete has always greeted me warmly but a look on his face made me ask the question "Everything alright?". I won't repeat his answer here but there were problems during the soundcheck (more of this in the ANUBIS band members' blog, coming soon). One more person started to worry, me!

Pete dashed off to do whatever jackal-headed gods do before a gig and I had a chat with DJ Beerman and his son. I also met Dawn and Ian of Black Scorpion Promotions who will be hosting the RACP gig at The Old Wharf, Digbeth in May. Lovely people and I look forward to catching up with them again. I also had the pleasure of finally meeting someone I'd 'met' previously and chatted to a lot on MySpace and in the chatbox of Top Rock Radio, Voodoo Tony, who is a lot less scary and a whole lot nicer than his name suggests! I also met Neil (Jollyhawker) who had travelled all the way from South Wales. What a top bloke!

Before too long, it was time to go into the other room where the gig was to take place. I was filled with so many different emotions. Although I had faith in all of ANUBIS as musicians, the soundcheck probs had me wondering how it would go. I felt worried for my 'babies'. So much preparation and promotion for this night and it could all go wrong as a result of events beyond their control. Simon had told the rest of the band beforehand that they were all prepared and well-rehearsed and to just go out and do what they all knew they could do. It turned out to be sound (sorry!) advice.

The gig

Sacko announced the band as “the brilliant Anubis!” so no pressure there, then 😊 and Sarah, Simon, Pete and Kev took their places on stage as I and I daresay, other friends in the audience and of course, Syb, held their breath.

As the first notes of ‘Your World’ filled the room, expectancy was high. When Sarah started to sing and we could hardly hear her, it wasn’t looking good. Then, as if those Egyptian gods were looking down on their namesakes, her voice kicked in over the mic and they were on their way. The song ended to great applause and there were some smiles from the stage to mirror those in the audience. 😊

Now we were on a roll. ANUBIS treated us to ‘Magic Carpet’ next. Simon’s mic not suffering the same glitches as Sarah’s. Everyone was enjoying themselves on and off stage by now. Simon’s hair blowing about from the electric fan at his feet, very reminiscent of Steve Vai. 😊

Another ISIS song, ‘Us’ was next and although that mic, or something else (enough said!), was still causing problems now and again, it didn’t stop Sarah’s wonderful, haunting voice reaching an appreciative audience.

Another rocker followed, Simon’s ‘No-one Is Immortal’. Yep, the Beerman and many others were headbanging to that one!

Next, it was time for Kev to show his talent with a drum solo. That guy sure can play drums! Drum solos aren’t everybody’s thing, I know but Kev kept everyone watching and listening, appreciating his remarkable skill. We were then treated to an awesome guitar solo from Simon that segued into ‘Little Picture’. It is this section that can be seen in the short video on YouTube. Interestingly, Simon shared the vocals with Sarah on this ISIS penned song. A new dimension to a well known ANUBIS track.

The next song was pure Sarah however. ‘Above Water’ from the ‘Avatar’ ep. She sang wonderfully and I think I smiled right through the song. It’s no secret that it’s one of my favourites.

Simon’s ‘Angry Dolphins’ came next. Another opportunity for Simon to make some tricky guitar playing appear deceptively easy!

Then came the song that started it all for ANUBIS, ‘Stalked by Sadness’. The knowledgeable audience were really enjoying this. Were you one of those in the audience singing along? Go on, admit it, I was!

‘Masquerade’ came next and another superb performance from the band. Sarah’s voice really working well. A relief as she had been unwell until just before the day. It wasn’t difficult to see The Jackal’s pride at playing alongside his daughter.

The next two tracks were originally meant to be an encore but ANUBIS moved straight into them. A pity really, if for no other reason than that I desperately needed a ‘comfort break’, to put it politely! Pete and Kev left the stage as Simon on guitar accompanied Sarah’s cover of the All About Eve song ‘Martha’s Harbour’. A beautiful song, sung beautifully. I’m sorry I wasn’t there for all of it.

The set ended with more guitar virtuosity from Simon on ‘The Pharaoh’, accompanied by the other band members on this rocking track.

And then it was all over. About an hour of superb musicianship from all concerned. Sarah's voice and keyboards, Simon's guitar and vocals, Pete's bass and Kev's drumming, all showing why this band has become so popular. This was their first ever live performance together but if you didn't already know, you couldn't possibly have told from their performance. A very professional set that had me and others wanting more and looking forward to the next one. Perhaps if there hadn't been technical difficulties, it would have been all too easy for ANUBIS. Not that I'd wish those problems on them again!

I spoke to the band members individually after the gig and all were happy with the set. Kev was pleased to be told by me how good his playing was and how he adds so much to the sound of the band. That anyone so talented can be so unassuming is refreshing in this day and age. Sarah was happy that her voice held out. She had been really quite ill for the two weeks beforehand but again, you'd never have noticed from her performance. You'd also never have known that it was her first ever time on stage in front of an audience. Now she can't wait for the next one! Pete asked me how I thought it went and a big smile crossed his face when I told him they'd all done brilliantly. Syb, Pete's wife, was also beaming. Talk about proud! Simon was, as ever, the master of understatement. As I told him how well I thought it had gone, he smiled and said "yeah, it went alright, didn't it?".

So, a privilege and a pleasure to have witnessed the first ever gig by ANUBIS. Here's to many more successful gigs ahead!

WOLFMAN REVIEWS – USA

Anubis was an Egyptian god who was the protector of the spirits of the dead. He was also said to have invented mummification. But the reason that this name fits the band so well is that one of the functions Anubis had was after the dead were sealed into their tomb, it was his job to awaken the soul.

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From the quirky albums opening number, "**Little Picture**", there is no doubt something special is going on here. This is not just an ordinary piece of music. With a very heavy guitar laid down by Simon Lees, also known as The Pharaoh, the feeling is that this is going down the metal path. That is, until you get your first taste of the haunting vocals of Isis, also known as Sarah Co'burn. This lady reminds me so much of Annie Haslam from Renaissance it is uncanny. Her multi octave range is something to behold. On this particular song it gives a haunting, surreal feel that perfectly fits this intoxicating piece.

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Andy Hart, who also goes by the name of The Sphinx, gets a chance to show off his considerable six string abilities on such offerings as the terrific **"Masquerade"** and he gets to trade licks with Lees on the battle of guitar supremacy **"Dual On The Nile"**. This is a band with a heavy metal heart and they have two guys with huge ones in this pair.

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Taken as a whole, the album *Sibuna*, is a real gem. I am a sucker for great guitar work and there is plenty

WOLMAN AVATAR

Scott, from Michigan and MySpace friend to **ANUBIS**, myself and this Fan Space, has written the first review of AVATAR which is reproduced below:

Anubis: Avatar

After the success of their debut album *Sibuna*, the fans of Anubis have been clamoring for more. To tide them over until the next full release, the band has issued a 4 song EP.

The disc starts with a song about demanding friendships. "Above Water" is a stark and startling song that features the bass work of The Jackal (Pete Williamson) backing the haunting vocals of Isis (Sarah Co'burn). Sarah has a mesmerizing voice and she is in peak form here. She gives an almost gothic feel to this stripped down work.

They then turn to a rework of the fantastic song from their debut album "Stalked by Sadness". This time it is reworked to include vocals by Isis. This terrific song still includes the guitar work of The Pharaoh (Simon Lees) that is so gripping. I can't say that Isis' vocals add a whole lot to the song, I still prefer the original.

The band really lets go with the next song. It is as hard edged as anything you have heard from them before. "In Your Mind" is a rocker that features the work of The Sphinx (Andy Hart) and Simon Lees. This song is enough to make you want Avatar. It will have your mouth watering for more. I can tell you that Simon is one super guitarist and I have enjoyed anything where his fingers hit the fretboard. This is no exception!



To end the disc is a strange little number, the title track "Avatar". This one which is all Isis with some keyboard backing, it has a little bit of lyrics that along with the sound effects and spoken word passages by Isis, all relate to the cover art.

The band continues to whet the appetite with this release. Though it might have only a couple of real new musical offerings, they are very strong. The band continues to create some very fine music and maybe this will be enough to satisfy until a full release gets here.

Anubis did a real cool thing with this EP. They had a contest to name it, and the winner gets a credit on the disc. The lucky bum! Anubis has a special relationship with its fans. This should be enough to keep them for a little while, but I bet they will want more before too long!

Track Listing:

1. Above Water
2. Stalked by Sadness (Isis mix)
3. In Your Mind
4. Avatar

REVIEW FROM ALL OUT GUITAR MAG - 4.5 out of 5 Stars

Anubis is a new band that features the talents of a man well known to Alloutguitar readers and audiences throughout the UK - Simon Lees. Simon won the Guitarist of The Year title in 1998 and featured in the very first issue of alloutguitar.com back in September 2006. Simon joined classic rockers Budgie for a couple of years, and his storming set was one of the highlights at Allout Guitarfest last year - so we were all looking forward to hearing this album...

The lush Egyptian themed packaging along with the bands pseudonyms 'Isis', 'The Sphinx' etc leave you in no doubt as to the music's general concept, so without further ado lets dig in and check out what's on offer!

Overview!

'Little Picture' opens up with some vaguely Eastern riffs from Mr Lees and fellow axe partner in crime Andy Hart. With it's combination of almost narrator vocals combined with a harmony vocal laden chorus this brings up an interesting amount of musical reference points including Evanescence - and even Celtic/ folk rock elements to 'Isis' (aka Sarah Co'burn) vocal approach.

'The Pharaoh' instrumental interlude between the opening track and 'Your World' is absolute guitar nirvana - Simon Lees super charged

melodic guitar providing dramatic and eloquent soloing. Simon really is one of the very best guitar players operating in the melodic rock sphere in the world today - he really is the complete package! Such vibrato as well! Simon is an irresistible combination of players such as Doug Aldrich, John Norum, Kee Marchello, John Sykes, Jake E Lee and prime era Viv Campbell. It is a travesty that he is not better known...

Fellow axe slinger Andy Hart proves to be an admirable comrade in arms - a new name to me but a guitarist worthy of further investigation as he is a phenomenal player as well!

Towards the end there is a Randy Rhoads/Yngwie/Macalpine-esque arpeggio sequence - and when this speeds up check out the Nuno Bettancourt/Greg Howe style legato muting before an almost Cacophony-esque (Jason Becker/Marty Friedman) sweep picked finale.

'Your World' is a mid paced moody track again coming from the Evanescence school of rock - although with lots of Lees/Hart picked harmonics in the chugging riffs. This works well enough in its present state - although sonically it veers a little too closely to a glorified demo: with lashings of big keyboards and massed vocal harmonies this could very effective.

'Stalked By Sadness' is a balladic epic, melodic and powerful - and with some stunning guitar. Simon takes lead vocals on this and this is a great vocal performance - indeed should Simon ever tire of the One Man Rock Show and his teaching, we all felt that he could do with investigating a career in musicals.

'Magic Carpet' is an Eastern themed rocker with Mr Lees on lead vocals again - lots of harmonic minor riffage, and again a highlight is a Blackmore tinged solo which just takes off! Dig the Viv Campbell style picked harmonics midway through as well!

Track Eight 'No One Is Immortal' is another Simon Lees led track and has provided much hilarity at AOG HQ as it's a bloody good classic Ozzy track - but one that is a damned site stronger than anything the Double O has released in literally decades. From the Ozzy-esque vocals and classic Jake E Lee style riffage (with a hint of George Lynch) to the smoking old school Zakk Wylde solo - i.e. from the days when he was really hot a la 'No Rest For The Wicked Days' - as opposed to the dial it in pentatonic shredding that he indulges in nowadays...

something to discuss at a later date methinks! Andy Hart deserves

Surely this is a Grade A calling card for Simon should Ozzy ever go hunting for another guitar slinger and do the honourable thing and goes for a hot Brit instead of yet another tired face on the LA scene...

'Dual On The Nile' is a driving rock instrumental with shades of Satriani and Vai, but with lots of Eastern melodies to spice it up before a track familiar with all who have seen Simon at his many live appearances - and was one of the highlights of thee recent Allout Guitarfest 'Angry Dolphins'. Again keeping with the harmonic minor/Phrygian dominant theme of much of the album this has loads of those inimitable Mr Lees guitar lines and fantastic tone.

The album proper concludes we have the 'Your World Vampire Waltz' which acts as a fitting conclusion to the album, reiterating many melodic themes introduced over the course of an adventurous album and with it's appropriately 3/4 steel string finale is an appropriate coda to the album.

There are two guitar instrumentals/backing tracks as bonus tracks including the sublime 'Stalked By Sadness Instrumental' and 'Anubian Dream' which, is a laid back almost 'trance' track with lots of Mediterranean/eastern acoustic styling from Mr Lees.

Conclusion

This is an interesting album that, on the whole, works very well. If I were to have any criticisms it is that the production quality is a shade uneven - the drums and bass in particular on certain tracks could be clearer - but without any hesitation I can recommend this to those who want their rock outside of the norm -and it goes without saying that fans of kinetic beautifully played rock/80's metal guitar should purchase this without further ado. Nice one!

NORWEGIAN MAGAZINE REVIEW – NORWAY

ANUBIS REVIEW FROM NORWAY

Current mood: 🎧 accomplished

Category: Music

Hi Folks

Below is a review of Sibuna from a Norwegian Rock Mag.. First in English and then in

Norwegian.

Thank you to Angelika Olsson for the Translation .. Angelika is one of our Swedish Fans..

ANUBIS - SIBUNA REVIEW...

Anubis is a relatively new band which only dates back to 2007, when a group of musicians got together to create a new and unique sound.

Indeed we've heard this many times before but in this case there is a certain originality with the Egyptian name and other artefacts from the land at the end of the Nile.

The Bassist and the Vocalist is also father and daughter, or to put it in a different way the Jackal is the Father of Isis from Anubis of Wolverhampton.

The band have a lot of different things they blend into their musical mix, like metal, jazz, blues, folk music and Nu metal. The musicians are quite experienced, and it is the experience that follows from a lot of other bands among others good old Budgie actually. A pretty colourful and good instrumental track is "the pharaoh" which has pretty tough riffs and a lovely deep bass, and a great drumwork as a rhythmic basis.

Simon Lees shows what a great guitarist he is and he plays really melodic but also with dramatic solos. In "Us" that takes on the relationship between a mother and son Isis (Sarah Co'burn) shows off her voice full glory in a beautiful song that she's written herself. More of the eastern theme is given to us in "Magic carpet" Harmonic riffs and a solo that bring vibes that remind you of Mr. Blackmore. "Little picture" has vocals close to the storytelling tradition, small hints to eastern riffs, great vocal harmonies and a kind of Celtic colouring. An almost epic ballad is found under the title "Stalked by sadness". Both melody, power and fullness is well taken care of in this beautiful song which is also equipped with really great guitarlines. Simon Lees vocals are also exquisite, and this a bit untypical Anubis song is the one we think is the best of the album.

One of the bands maybe least known sides is their humor that some of the lyrics are made up from, this makes it all more relaxed and contributes to a lovely charm. Production wise it's a bit uneven, especially the bass and the drums get a bit muddy soundwise. The music has one leg in Hardrock and metal territory, but is varying and sweeps within a lot and is very melodic, often with a dreamlike vocal. A small touch of eastern tunes refreshens and simple spacy elements are also smart features. Sibuna is a varied and fresh album which absolutely would satisfy a lot of people who like rock with a certain originality, skilled musicians and energy.

ORIGINAL NORWEGIAN - SIBUNA REVIEW

Anubis er et relativt nytt band som bare har historie tilbake til 2007, da en gjeng med musikere slo seg sammen for å skape et nytt og unikt sound.

Akkurat det har vi hørt rimelig ofte, men her er det i det minste en viss originalitet med egyptisk navn og andre artefakter fra landet ved Nilens ende. Bassist og vokalist er for øvrig far og datter her, eller sagt på en annen måte så er Jackal far til Isis i Anubis fra Wolverhampton. Bandet har mye forskjellig de blander i den musikalske miksen sin, og vi nevner metall, jazz, blues, folk og nu metall.

Musikerne er rimelig rutinert, og det er en rutine som er ervervet i mange andre band deriblant gode gamle Budgie faktisk. En temmelig fargesparkende og bra instrumental låt er "The Pharaoh" som har temmelig tøffe riff og en herlig dyp bass, og med en flott perkusjonsbruk som rytmisk basis. Simon Lees viser her hvilken flott gitarist han er, og han spiller svært melodisk men også med dramatisk soloer her. På "Us" som tar for seg dynamikken i forholdet mellom mor og sønn viser Isis (Sarah Co..burn) til fulle sin stemmes prakt i en vakker sang som hun selv har skrevet. Mer østlig tematikk får i på "Magic Carpet" og harmoniske riff, og en solo som har rikelig med vibber til Mr. Blackmore. "Little Picture" har vokal tett opp mot fortellertradisjonen, små hint til østlige riff og flotte vokalharmonier, og en viss keltisk fargelegging.

En nærmest episk ballade finner vi under låttittelen "Stalked By Sadness". Både melodi, kraft og fylde er vel ivaretatt i denne vakre låten som også er utstyrt med virkelige knallbra gitarlinjer. Vokalen til Simon Lees er også utsøkt, og denne noe utypisk Anubislåten er den vi anser for å være skiva beste. Et av bandets kanskje mindre kjente sider er deres humor som tekstene til dels har flust opp av, det gjør at det hele blir mer avslappet og bidrar til en herlig sjarm. Produksjonsmessig er det noe ujevnt, og det er spesielt bass og trommer som blir noe grumsete i lyden. Musikken har et ben i hardrock og metall territorier, men er variert og sveiper innom mye og er temmelig melodisk og med en ofte drømmeaktig vokal. En liten touch av østlige toner frisker opp og enkelte spacy elementer er også smartee innsalg. "Sibuna" er ei variert og frisk skive som absolutt bør kunne tilfredsstill mange som liker rock med en viss originalitet, dyktige musikere og energi.

Proghead Mag