

PORCUPINE TREE

Transmission 9 – Millennium Edition 1999

Finally after what proved to be a mammoth tour of Europe and the USA earlier this year, Porcupine Tree are about to commence with a new schedule of shows and the recording of the next studio album. The long-awaited 5th official Porcupine Tree studio album was released earlier this year on K-Scope Records, a division of Snapper Music. Response from the general public and critics alike was favourable, and the album has so far sold well in Europe and the USA. A huge world tour to promote the album took in over 40 shows in 10 countries over the March to June period, resulting in a very tired band and crew and thousands of ecstatic new and old fans. Countries visited included Holland, France, Italy, Poland, Greece, Belgium and Canada the USA. A special mention must be made of the PT followers who turned up on the American leg of the tour, many of whom had travelled vast distances to attend the shows. Their support and appreciation helped to make this trip a great success and the band are looking forward to their next US visit, which will happen when funds allow (unfortunately due to work permit costs touring the USA is very expensive....)

Towards the end of the tour a show at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London was filled with a capacity 650 strong audience that included journalists from Classic Rock, Mojo and The Times, all of whom later penned praiseworthy reviews.

'Piano Lessons' was the first single from the album, and made both Melody Maker and NME's Independent Singles Charts. Released on both CD and 7 inch single format, new ground was made when a video of 'Piano Lessons' was released to the media to promote the single. Featuring the band in a variety of unusual costumes and situations it was directed by Mike Bennion, and gently sticks two fingers up at the idea of selling a band and it's music. The video was played on VH-1 along with a short interview with Steven, and it was also seen a number of times across Europe. For those of you who missed it read on....

Second single 'Stranger by the Minute' was released on the 4th of October. The enhanced CD version featured not only the second part of 'Even Less', as heard on tour, but also the aforementioned 'Piano Lessons' video as a CD ROM for PC and Mac. Pre-orders on this item were among the highest ever for a Porcupine Tree title, fuelling hopes of a possible denting of the lower reaches of the Top 100. Mark Radcliffe has played the song on his Radio One show, and XFM has also play-listed it. The 7 inch, features a different cover to the CD also contains the band's interpretation of the classic Neu track 'Hallogallo'.

The third single from the album, 'Pure Narcotic' will be released in November and features, on the CD, a live version of Tinto Brass (recorded at Southampton Uni. in the spring) and 'Door To the River'. The 7 inch features an acoustic version of 'Nine Cats' ('Door..' and 'Nine Cats' were previously on the 'Insignificance' cassette). Like all of the 7 inch releases to date it will be a limited edition of 1000 copies in a picture sleeve.

RELATED RELEASES

Other recent CD releases have included Steven Wilson's 'Bass Communion 2', initial copies of which came with a free bonus disc, and a very limited US only release 'Bass Communion v Muslinguaze'. Both of these album's explore the ambient, electronic and trance aspects of Steven Wilson's muse, and are recommend to more adventurous ears. A limited edition (500 copies) Incredible Expanding Mindfuck 12-inch single, in five different colours, was released in Holland earlier in the year. This contained one of the tracks from the eponymous CD plus some excellent new material. The new No Man album is complete and will be out early in 2000 on Third Stone. Due for late October release is the new Barbieri/Jansen/Karn CD entitled 'Ism'.