

JOHN TUCKER – Concise Biography

- Began writing about music in 1981, at the height of the New Wave Of British Heavy Metal, firstly for the in-house university magazine and then for the American magazine *Metal Rendez-Vous*.
- Moved to London in 1983, and began contributing (both as writer and photographer) to a number of fanzines such as *Forearm Smash* and *Marshall Stack* in the UK, *Rock Brigade* (Brazil), *Sagritura Escritura* (Portugal), as well as being the main UK contributor to the re-launched and expanded *Metal Rendez-Vous*. Also at this time created and wrote Neat Records' promotional magazine *Lead Weight*, and established and published *Stack Attack* fanzine. Regular contributor (to this day) to the Deep Purple Appreciation Society magazine *Darker Than Blue*.
- Founded and ran the Queensryche UK, Blitzkrieg, and Hellion Fan Clubs, and also managed UK Heavy Metal band Playn Crazy for the duration of their lifespan.
- Became a professional portrait photographer with his own company Photographia (and a sideline in shooting live bands) in 1999.
- Came back to writing about music in 2001 when Sanctuary Records began to re-issue NWOBHM albums with bonus tracks, writing booklet notes for a number of releases (listed overleaf), and in addition compiling many of the CDs' tracklistings. Currently producing booklet notes and ideas for release for Majestic Rock Records.
- Started writing first book *Suzie Smiled... The New Wave Of British Heavy Metal* in August 2003; this was published by Independent Music Press in June 2006.
- Joined the ProgPower UK team as press officer, interviewing all the bands concerned and writing the event programme for the inaugural festival in March 2006 ("a big thanks to author/music journalist John Tucker for taking the time out from magazine and book work to give us exclusive band interviews and features – a lot of hard work but well worth it." – Jon Hoare, Promoter, ProgPower UK) and repeated the job for the 2007 festival ("even the programme is superior to the shoddy 'press release and big pix approach taken by some festivals, being a glossy 48-page magazine for which Bristol-based music journalist John Tucker has interviewed all of the bands" – Venue magazine, March 2007).
- Relaunched band photography with a location shoot for Threshold in October 2006 for their first album for Nuclear Blast, *Dead Reckoning*, having already shot their website live gallery ProgPower UK 2006 set.

- Began ghostwriting Biff Byford of Saxon's autobiography *Never Surrender (Or Nearly Good Looking)* in January 2006; this was published in April 2007.
- Regular contributor of articles and photographs to *Fireworks* magazine (UK) and *Sonic Cathedral* website

BOOKS

Suzie Smiled... The New Wave Of British Heavy Metal – published June 2006 by Independent Music Press (ISBN 0-9549704-7-0)

Never Surrender (or Nearly Good Looking) – An Autobiography by Biff Byford and John Tucker – published April 2007 by Iron Pages (ISBN 978-3-931624-44-6), and published in German under the title *Der Adler Ist Gelandet* (ISBN 978-3-931624-49-1) in March 2008 by Iron Pages.

CD BOOKLET NOTES

AIIZ	The Witch Of Berkeley (Majestic Rock Records)
Avenger	Too Wild To Tame – The Anthology (Sanctuary) Blood Sports (Frontline Rock Classics – Brazil) Killer Elite (Frontline Rock Classics – Brazil)
Bitches Sin	The First Temptation (Majestic Rock Records) Essential Sins (independent release)
Black Rose	Bright Lights Burnin' (Majestic Rock Records)
Blitzkrieg	A Time Of Changes Phase 1 (Sanctuary)
Fist	Back With A Vengeance – The Anthology (Sanctuary)
Holocaust	Smokin' Valves – The Anthology (Sanctuary) The Nightcomers (Sanctuary) Live (Hot Curry & Wine) (Sanctuary)
Medusa	Clash Of The Titans (Majestic Rock Records)
Neat Records	The Singles – Volume 1 (Sanctuary) The Singles – Volume 2 (Sanctuary) The Singles – Volume 3 (Sanctuary)
Satan	Live In The Act (Metal Nation CD /TPL Records LP*) – provided photos only (different for each release)
Shiva	Continuance (Majestic Rock Records)
Trespass	One Of These Days – The Anthology (Sanctuary)
Tytan	Rough Justice (Majestic Rock Records)
Various	Empire Of Thunder (Majestic Rock Records)
Venom	The Seven Gates Of Hell: Singles 1980-1985 (Sanctuary)
Witchfynde	Cloak And Dagger (Lemon Records) The Best Of (Lemon Records)

REVIEWERS' COMMENTS:

Avenger – ‘Too Wild To Tame – The Anthology’

“...liner notes come from the knowledgeable John Tucker.” - R. Thompson, Powerplay # 40

“Blessed with enthusiastic sleeve notes...” - M. Dome, Classic Rock, Dec '02

“Also included are sleeve notes by NWOBHM expert John Tucker” – Sonsearch.com e-catalogue, May 2005

Bitches Sin – ‘Essential Sins’

“This collection has enthusiastic sleeve notes by experts Toine van Poorten and John Tucker...” – N. Daniels, Powerplay #88

Black Rose – ‘Bright Lights Burnin’

“Previously unseen photos plus sleeve notes from respected NWOBHM scribe John Tucker –sleazerox.com website

Blitzkrieg – ‘A Time Of Changes Phase 1’

“The ‘Phase 1’ title hints at Blitzkrieg having a further legacy to impart...like the detailed liner notes...” - P. Stenning, Terrorizer #109

Holocaust – ‘The Nightcomers’/‘Live (Hot Curry & Wine)’

“Liner notes guru John Tucker has also worked with us...and even played a key role in providing sources for a few of the tracks on the CDs.” - Holocaust web site, October 2003

Medusa – ‘Clash Of The Titans’

“Detailed liner notes are included – the short history of the band makes a good read” – Neil Daniels, Fireworks #23

Satan – ‘Live In The Act’

“...rediscovered and lovingly produced with excellent liner notes and photos” - Steve Swift, Powerplay #61

Trespass – ‘One Of These Days – The Anthology’

“...fascinating and well written sleeve notes from John Tucker” - Old School Metal Show press release, March 2005

Venom – ‘The Seven Gates Of Hell: Singles 1980 – 1985’

“It contains surprisingly interesting liner notes...” - C. Chantler, Terrorizer #107

Various – ‘Empire Of Thunder’

“...containing sleeve notes by respected NWOBHM expert John Tucker” - Majestic Rock Records website

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