



Never Never *Tribute* [Independent]

Never Never has been around cranking out music both original and cover for nearly a decade and a half. And when something has lasted that long, there must be a reason. Not that it has been smooth sailing. (Does any band or for that matter any group of people exist in perfect harmony?) Kevin Settles can tell you the exact number of guitarists, bass players and drummers that have been involved in the project. However, they finally seem to have arrived at the

magic configuration

Tribute is the latest Never Never release. It pays homage to one of the things the band does so well which is cover other artists' material with a fresh approach (and sometimes better playing than the original band!) The current lineup of Never Never recorded here live is John Thomakos on drums, Angelo "AJ" Cammarata on bass and backing vocals, Kevin "Spike" Settles on guitar and lead vocals, and the local guitar wizard Ronnie Zebron on guitar and backing vocals.

Anyone who knows the local scene knows that Never Never's forte is Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. Thus, the band decided to release an album of what scores of fans come out week after week to hear; the songs that they know and love, and Never Never delivers so well. Zep and Sabbath are covered here as well as early Van Halen and an old Willie Dixon blues tune.

If you have never seen Never Never live this CD will give you a good idea of what one of their shows is like—high energy, rocking and totally entertaining. These guys know how to have a good time and they have been doing this so long together that they practically breathe in unison. The songs represented here are tight and loose at the same time. The entire band a seemingly amorphous single unit.

Everyone who listens to this CD will have their own personal faves depending on which of the aforementioned bands they like best. However, let me go out on a limb and say that my two favorites are "Heartbreaker" by Led Zeppelin and "Atomic Punk" off of the first Van Halen album. Never Never has been covering Led Zeppelin expertly for so long that I swear they do it better than Page and Plant. In fact, compare Ronnie's guitar solo and I think you'll agree that it is clearer, cleaner and yes, just plain better than Page's. And the jaw-dropping playing on "Atomic Punk" will floor you. No matter how many times you play this track or listen to them do this live, it will blow you away.

Yes, this is a CD of covers, but believe me, you will not be disappointed. If you are interested in Never Never original music, check out their other fine CDs. If you are in mood to just have a rocking good time pick up this CD or come on out and check Never Never out in person. See ya there!!

-Kat Dickinson
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