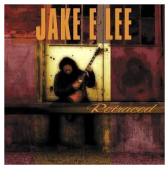
Jake E. Lee – Retraced (2005)



1 Whiskey Train 2 Evil 3 Way Back To The Bone 4 I'll Be Creepin' 5 Guess I'll Go Away 6 Love Is Worth The Blues 7 I Come Tumblin' 8 Woman 9 A Hard Way To Go 10 I Can't Stand It 11 Rock Candy Bass – Tim Bogert Drums – Aynsley Dunbar Guitar – Jake E. Lee Vocals – Chris Logan

When most fans recall Jake E. Lee's playing, it is his stellar, heavy metal-esque style featured on such mid-'80s Ozzy classics as Bark at the Moon and The Ultimate Sin. But aside from hardcore fans, Lee is a bluesy, classic rocker at heart, as evidenced by his work with his post-Ozzy band, Badlands, and especially on his latest solo album, Retraced. Comprised entirely of covers, Lee doesn't go the usual Stones/Zeppelin route, but instead, picks lesser-known songs from his days as a teen playing in bands -- including selections from such outfits as Robin Trower, Johnny Winter, and Trapeze, among others. Reading Lee's notes in the CD booklet, it's surprising to learn that he hadn't picked up his instrument for a year before Shrapnel head Mike Varney convinced him to do the project. The deciding factor for Lee was the rhythm section -- Vanilla Fudge's Tim Bogert on bass and session ace Aynsley Dunbar on drums -- who supports Lee throughout. Ex-Michael Schenker singer Chris Logan handles vocals, and as evidenced by such cuts as "Evil" and "Guess I'll Go Away," Logan gets quite David Coverdale-esque at times. Despite the long fretboard layoff, Lee can still wail away with the best of them, especially on "Way Back to the Bone." For fans of modern-day blues-rock (with, obviously, a classic rock edge), Retraced is definitely recommended. ---Greg Prato, allmusic.com

For someone that claims he hasn’t picked up a guitar in over a year, Jake E. Lee sure hasn’t lost any skills. In fact I’ve always touted Jake as Ozzy Osbourne‘s best guitarist (or at least the

most unheralded) – sure Randy Rhoads and Zakk Wylde may be more influential and have larger fan bases, but Jake has always had a more roots oriented sound. With guitarists it isn't always how fast you can play or how flashy one is, in my opinion it all comes down to feel and knowing when and why certain notes need to be played. Jake E. Lee is one of the shredders that understand this simple concept.

This is a covers album and in the liner notes Jake himself states that he finds such albums to be a "waste of time" unless one is able to add something to the songs or introduce some music to a new audience – and that is what is being done on Retraced. The blues rock standards found on this release aren't songs that would usually appear on some bargain bin best of collection. With that in mind, and the chance to work with the legendary Tim Bogert and Aynsley Dunbar, Jake E. Lee decided that a covers album would be worthwhile after all – and I agree.

Right from the opening riffs of the incredible "Whiskey Train" you know that Jake is in fine form and still has the chops – that song also features enough cowbell to make everyone happy. But the magic doesn't end on that first track; just listen to Jake's precision picking on "Way Back To The Bone" or him unleashing a killer solo at near the end of "Love Is Worth The Blues". In fact you can close your eyes and pick any song on this disc and hear some incredible guitar licks, this is the type of solo album I was wishing Mark Kendall would have released. Badlands used to do some covers on their albums and live shows, and each of these songs would have fit in nicely with their catalog.

If you could compare this to one contemporary artist I would say Retraced is in the same vein as Kenny Wayne Shepard due in part to the bluesy wail of vocalist Chris Logan. This really is an incredible album and lets hope it doesn't take another year for Jake to pick up the guitar again. ---Skid, sleazeroxx.com

Jake E. Lee dał się poznać w szeregach zespołu OZZY'EGO OSBOURNE'A, ale nie zdobył takiej popularności, jak pochodzący spod tej samej strzechy gitarzyści: Randy Rhoads i Zakk Wilde. Jednak nagrywa płyty, dając upust swoim umiejętnościom, trzymając się przy tym kurczowo klimatów rocka i bluesa. Tym razem Jake namówił do współpracy basistę Tima Bogerta znanego z VANILLA FUDGE i grupy CACTUS oraz perkusistę Aynsleya Dunbara kojarzonego z JOHN MAYALL GROUP, FRANKA ZAPPĄ czy UFO. Niesamowita sekcja rytmiczna, którą docenimy słuchając utworu Evil znanego z repertuaru CACTUS'A. Ci muzycy

nie przypadkiem zostali zaproszeni do udziału w tej sesji. Lee głównie sięgnął po covery, składając tym samym hołd swoim wzorcom: FREE – Woman, JOHNNY WINTER'owi – Guess I'll Go Away czy Rock Candy formacji MONTROSE. ---Tomek „Konfi" Konfederak, topguitar.pl

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