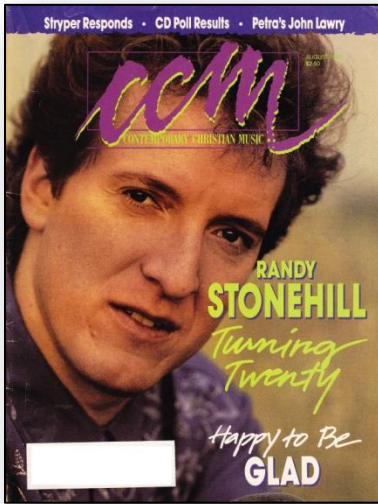


BLOODGOOD IN THE MEDIA



Publication: CCM Contemporary Christian Music
 Issue: August 1990
 Title: (Video) **Bloodgood Alive in America & Shakin' the World Bloodgood Live – Vol. I & II**
 Author: Doug Van Pelt

Seeing Bloodgood live has always been a splendid treat of dramatized metal. This band has a standard of only doing something if it can be done right and this video shows one of Christian metal's best live acts living up to its standard.

This medium has been begging to capture the dramatic prowess of lead vocalist Les Carlsen who starred in the Broadway musical *Hair*. One look at scenes such as his failed attempts to point the way to an estranged girl during "Alone In Suicide," and then holding her limp body in his arms during "She's Gone" prove that Les is in his element here.



There are two major backdrops used: one is a street scene featuring a brick wall, graffiti and a trashcan; the other a Roman court. In the second set we see the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. a mob comes out to accuse Christ, portrayed by actor Kurt Hilbert, while Carlsen as Pilate deliberates the Messiah's fate.

The scourging shows Christ's bleeding back and swollen face. He is hung on a cross while women mourn. Carlsen quotes John 3:16 at this somber moment. During "The Messiah" Christ is taken off the cross for burial, laid to rest, and then shown in resurrection glory. This is a worthwhile effort that could teach the writers of Jesus Christ Superstar a few lessons (Like the fact of the resurrection).

The band put tight performances on the two nights this was recorded. Bloodgood fans may notice that new guitarist Paul Jackson sounds more at home playing the songs he helped write for Out Of The Darkness than he does the older material. He has a different tone than former guitarist David Zaffiro. Guest rhythm guitarist, Craig Church is added to the lineup here, creating a fuller sound and making sure the guitar sound doesn't drop out during some of Jackson's leads.

Accompanying these two videos are simultaneous releases of the audio counterparts. While not matching the exact same performances or song order, these two albums are smokin' aural displays of blistering heavy metal at full volume. The sound separation and performance are excellent. Probably due to the awe-inspiring dramatic Doug Van Pelt performance, the crowd noise is minimal during the songs, allowing for a surprisingly clear live sound.

Overall, Bloodgood seems to have pulled off the impossible: delivering a high-quality visual and audio performance at the same time.