

House of Heroes' new album a rock highlight

Album Review

Cold Hard Want

Band: House of Heroes
Rating: ★★★★★

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House of Heroes fans rejoice. The rock band from Columbus, Ohio has returned with its new album "Cold Hard Want," an album that is destined to be a rock highlight for 2012.

Fans of the band are treated to the best of both worlds combining the up-beat fun rock songs from "Suburba," with some of the dark-toned, dramatic elements from "The End is Not the End" with musical influences of Tom Petty and Queen.

The beginning of the album brings the listener straight to the familiar "Suburba" pop guitar sound with its song "Out My Way," which provides the lyrical depth that fans were hoping for from "The End is Not the End."

The album continues with "Remember the Empire."

In the first 30 seconds of the song, the listener is bombarded with an epic sound of dramatic choir-like "oh oh oh's" with lyrics displaying a message of a nation who needs to stand up for what is good and right.

The album's single "Touch This Light" leaves behind the pop rock sound and embraces the dramatic dark-toned music formula from "The End is Not the End" album with choir-like "woah's" as Tim Skipper pleads and reaches out with his lyrics to a higher power for guidance and deliverance from his dark life.

The album then seems to turn in a different direction as House of Heroes features synthesizers in the beginning of its next song "Suspect."

The synths are only in the intro of the song, but will make fans of the band wonder if there will be more synths in the next album to come.

The song reaches down again into a dark-tone, with an insanely catchy chorus that is sure to be a highlight of the album.

The album comes to a close with "I am a Symbol." The song is probably the darkest and most eerie song on the album.

Skipper leads one last strong musical charge to stand up for truth with the lyrics, "I am a symbol, I am a flame. I object to the objective, I won't play the game. I'm resolved in my resistance, a witness to your wrongs. I am a symbol, I am a flame."

When the final note hits, one cannot be a little bit saddened that the album has come to an end.

This album is sure to please any fans of good rock n' roll.



DAFNE BRAVO/TM

Her own style: Former Cerritos College student Carina Munoz created this crochet animal. Munoz crochets animals with her own kind of unique style.

Crochet artist creates own creatures

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Twenty-year-old Carina Munoz, a former Cerritos College student is a devoted talented crocheter.

Her unique animal pieces set her apart from the normal crochet such as scarves or sweaters.

Crochet can be like any other art form. It may be a hobby for some, but for Munoz, it is a talent that has been passed down from previous generations of her family.

Starting with simple projects such as wallets and coin pouches, Munoz expanded to making small animals that have characteristics of more simple and soft versions of different animals.

Munoz also taught herself to create the different projects just by watching videos on the internet.

Slowly she started to expand her knowledge by learning how to read patterns and making her own "original creations" as she mentioned.

Beginning around middle school and inspired by all her mother's crochet pieces, her interest progressed as she would help her mother.

Learning to crochet was not an easy task due to the fact that she is left handed and her mother is right handed.

Munoz commented, "I could see what she was doing but it was really hard for me to copy her because it's like a mirror image. I learned how to deal with that over time."

After crocheting for quite a while, over time her pieces such as blankets and scarves became repetitive. It caused her to feel as if she was losing that connection she initially had with crochet.

She began to get back into crocheting once again looking for ideas online to change up her routine.

Reflecting on her work, Munoz said, "It takes a lot of patience and it is time consuming depending on what it is. It can even be frustrating at times."

She is inspired by other people's creations.

It is something that gives her drive to challenge herself into doing even better.

Computer design major Sarah

Wade who has assisted Munoz with ideas and designs on crochet pieces for the past five years.

Wade commented, "Most are ideas we (Munoz and I) have come up with over the years and the animals were all ideas I thought would work for her."

An obstacle Wade mentioned was getting her friend's name out and promoting her work.

She thinks Munoz can successfully sell her crochet pieces with the right steps.

The dedication that is invested by Munoz can sometimes take up four to five hours a day to crochet an animal.

Munoz's goal is to eventually step out of the animal pieces she makes and to begin to make little people.

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Improving students singing: Professor Anna DeMichele sits inside her music department office. DeMichele is the Cerritos College Director of Vocal Studies.

Cerritos College's Director of Vocal Studies improves students singing

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Professor Anna DeMichele, the Cerritos College director of vocal studies, is helping students discover their true singing voice.

"Not everyone will become a doctor or lawyer but everyone has a voice," DeMichele said.

There are no auditions necessary to be part of the Cerritos College choir.

Anyone with an interest in singing can join, but DeMichele recommends students take vocal classes prior to joining the choir.

She explained that there is a difference between singing normally than in a choir.

Choir requires a specific kind of singing in each person.

"You're going to be assigned a particular part like the base part or tender part. You have to sing your part and maintain while other people are singing their part so that there is a harmony that is in-

involved," DeMichele said.

Choirs sing different styles of music, DeMichele commented.

"There are jazz choirs. They're usually smaller (eight or 10 people) because jazz musicians use small combos," DeMichele said.

When teaching singing, DeMichele's philosophy is, "We all are born with a voice and my strict philosophy is that everyone can sing."

"Not everyone will become a professional singer, and that's just a way of life, but everyone has a voice."

Two of DeMichele's students, computer science major NJ Flores and nursing major Ron Kurdova, expressed why they joined choir.

"I thought it would be a good experience to sing to my friends and get started singing with a group," Flores said.

Kurdova said, "A friend introduced me (to choir). My friend was like 'You know what, you should join choir. That's how it happened.'"

DeMichele's teaching has improved Kurdova and Flores' singing.

"I took her voice class and definitely has help me with a breathing and posture," Kurdova said.

Flores commented, "She taught us proper technique to strengthen our voices, to get the basics down so we can improve."

The choir won't have an event until Nov. 13.

The choir will perform along with the school band and close the fall semester with a holiday show in December.

DeMichele's interest in music inspired her to become a choir teacher.

"I fell in love with everything that had to do with music," DeMichele said.

She said the growth of the Cerritos College choir is her biggest accomplishment.

"I started with about 15 or 20 students in a small group, and right now there are over 130 students (in the choir)," she said.