

HELLFIGHTER

"Damnation's Wings"

A fantastic debut of great British metal done the great British way. See you at the front.

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Genre: Heavy Metal
Heavy Metal Records



With the likes of Enforcer, Cauldron and White Wizzard having somehow made traditional, old-school metal appear cool to a generation who missed it first time round, it's sad that, as the birthplace of metal, the UK has not truly produced a classic, straight down the line metal band for some time.

But worry not earthdogs and rivetheads, as the mighty Hellfighter is here to rectify that state of affairs and with *"Damnation's Wings"* they've produced an album which not only competes with their European and American cousins, but pretty much blows the competition to

kingdom come.

Formed from the ashes of renowned UK thrashers Xentrix, it's no surprise to find Hellfighter dipping into thrash influences on songs like *"A Lesser God"* and the title track, but more central to their success is a clear and deep passion for the bands that themselves inspired the first wave of thrash.

Whether it's the twin leads during *"Legacy Of Hate"* or the piercing Halford-esque screams throughout, the influence of Maiden and Priest looms large, but such conviction does Hellfighter display that this never becomes a mere nostalgia trip. The melodic flourishes and songwriting expertise on show ensure that this album remains utterly relevant in 2011.

There are several points during these ten tracks when you might find yourself inexplicably striking axe hero poses and banging your head with little regard for your safety; please do not be alarmed, as this is perfectly normal. In fact, it's probably the only sensible response to what is a cracking debut album.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧

MARCUS JERVIS