

MARILYN MANSON:

Antichrist Superstar (Nothing/Interscope)

Rating: **

By Rob O' Connor

According to the promotional materials supplied with this album, "The *Antichrist Superstar* was engendered in response to increasing world tension." And I thought I was reviewing a mere rock 'n' roll album.

With charming titles such as "Irresponsible Hate Anthem," "Dried Up, Tied And Dead To The World" and "Wormboy," it's abundantly clear that this is no mere folkie-protest album. The sounds heard within are more in keeping with the doomsaying of Trent Reznor, whose Nothing Records imprint can be found on the album's spine and whose name can be found in the credits for additional guitar, mellotron, music composing and the album's production.

True to form, these fellas present a rather macabre view of the world, reveling in all the excitement found in yelling curse words and "angry" sentiments. They also dress in a way best described as "funny."

While I'm sure some parents might feel MM represents the end of the world--or at least an energetic attempt to bolster attendance at flailing Church of Satan activities--it seems from here to be the sort of "escapist" entertainment kids of all ages enjoy before realizing their actual future is far worse than the impending threat of fascism.

Like Kiss, Alice Cooper, Culture Club and other groups for whom make-up has helped their legions understand, it may seem "relevant" and "controversial" now, but give it a few years and it'll make a great Halloween gag. If we wait long enough, we can rally them on for a "Fat and Forty" reunion tour. But the world will probably end before it comes to that. Doncha think?