Bernie Tormé's debut a bright light

Turn Out the Lights is a surprisingly restrained piece of work from guitarist Bernie Tormé - but interesting nonetheless.

With his previous band, Gillan, Tormé produced fast, flashy guitar sounds 100% of the time. This didn't leave much room for his own stylistic development. On his new album, with a new band, Tormé shows he's markedly matured as a guitarist. His lead breaks are no longer a blur of notes, but more refined, sustained and melodical.

The album shows a mixture of heavy metal and rhythm and blues. Tormé's vocals are impressive as well. "No Reply" and "Painter Man" are the best songs on the album. The rhythm and bluesy "Turn Out the Lights" is a close third. The crashing guitars and drums of "Lies" and the Pink Floydish style of "Getting There" also deserve honourable mentions.

The one problem with the album is that the lyrics and most of the other musicians are ordinary; certainly nothing to rave about. But the outfit, as a whole, is tight and competent. The more I listened, the more I liked. The only other setback was its import price of \$14.95.

This album should be a breakthrough for Bernie Tormé. After playing with Gillan and a brief stint with the Ozzy Osbourne band, it seems Tormé might finally get the attention he deserves. He's a good guitarist with great potential, and this latest effort makes that poten-









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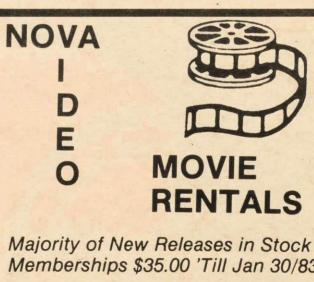
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