

***Voltaire: Zombie Prostitute (CD Single)***  
***An Annotated Music Review***

*Dr. Thanatos of Ann Arbor*  
*After Samhain (11.27.06 C.E.)*

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**She's a rotten kind of cute for a zombie prostitute ...**

Comments

[This section is optional] Everyone in the Scene loves the Cuba-born Voltaire, but no one really knows why. Like Bauhaus, his music isn't Goth, his talent isn't exceptional, and much of his work is so esoteric (e.g., the "Banned on Vulcan" album) that it isn't accessible. But herein I offer a hypothesis which solves this great mystery: Everyone loves Voltaire because he's really cool! It's that simple, and this "coolness" arises from the fact that (like the True Goth) he doesn't take himself, the Scene or (perhaps) ANYTHING too seriously. While Voltaire has several records, "hit" tracks such as "When You're Evil" and "Ex-Lover's Lover" are rare, but one thing is common: Voltaire makes you smile, and he makes you proud of our Subculture. How many Goth artists can you say that about? So, Voltaire, no matter how weird and raunchy you get (and these two attributes seem to be rapidly increasing), (gypsy) rock on, demon slayer!

[This section is required] Honestly, I wasn't expecting that much from the new single from Voltaire. His work is a bit inconsistent, and the special tracks always end up on Projekt's many comps anyway (and I'm thus always guaranteed to have them). So why am I sitting in my truck (i.e., home) listening to "Zombie Prostitute" over and over again on a cold night in Ann Arbor? Because it gave me a laugh when I most needed one! Voltaire is a great Goth storyteller, and he is so often so bad or cheesy that he's camp and thus good. This single nicely illustrates all of these adjectives. But, unfortunately, there's not a lot of new material here. Tracks 01 (Zombie Prostitute) and 02 (Dia De Los Muertos) are available on an upcoming album, and Tracks 01, 03 (China Girl), 04 (Cantina), and 05 (Hell in a Hand Basket) have been published elsewhere (q.v., Notes). Yet the tracks are somewhat homogenous and therefore work really well when presented together. They also give you an idea of what Voltaire's recent self-released album "Live!" sounds like as many of the tracks are his standard concert faire. And the low cost and relative availability of this maxi single make it well worth owning especially if you need an introduction to Voltaire's eclectic style, a style which is on the verge of being indescribable. When forced, I always call Voltaire's stuff "Gypsy Goth". But the first two tracks on "Zombie" have a Hispanic influence, and the fourth track continues that influence AND finds Voltaire revisiting the Gay Folk songs of The Frogs. The latter track also includes a ridiculous number of Star Wars allusions as if Voltaire was having writer's block and needed to use Neil Gaiman's patented "when struggling, write Slash (Porn) Fiction until you get you out of it" technique. Yet, the stark lewdness of "Cantina" and the similarly irreverent (but less crass) take on Christianity of "Hell" (which occasionally mocks/ reveres "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen) work all too well because they tap classic Goth themes and are delivered in a barroom (i.e., the modern campfire) style. "China Girl" is a cover of a David Bowie "sell-out era" tune done for a recent tribute album. And even though it's the weakest track here, the Goth Rock adage "you can never go wrong with Bowie" prevails yet again as Voltaire's unique (and surprisingly reverent) take keeps the song interesting. Voltaire's been touring a bit lately ( and he's been in my area TWICE recently :- ) so I highly recommend you catch his act live. But if you cannot, "Zombie Prostitute" will give you an inkling of the wild ride you are missing.

Summary: Gypsy goth music with weird raunchy lyrics (and gay allusions a plenty) creating fine (fairy) tales  
And it makes you smile, so nothing else (such as average musicianship) really matters

Reference: There are few acts who compare ... perhaps Rasputina, The Frogs, and ... Weird Al Yankovic?

ThanatoScore: 08/10

### Details

Artist: Voltaire  
Work: Zombie Prostitute  
Format: CD Single/mp3 Files  
Label: Projekt  
Catalog: Projekt189  
Date: 10.17.06

Members: Voltaire (Vocals, Acoustic Guitar)

Others: Gregor Kitzis (Violin)  
Matthew Goeke (Cello)  
Glenn Sorino (Drums)  
Kiku Collins (Horns)

Art: Voltaire

Photography: Oddree

Makeup: Halloween Adventure

Data:	Track	Time	Title
	01	03.15	Zombie Prostitute
	02	03.36	Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead-Spanish Version)
	03	04.26	China Girl
	04	07.47	Cantina (demo)
	05	04.39	Hell In A Hand Basket (Live Version)
		23.43	

### Concerts

Date	Venue	Location
11.29.06	Gothic Citi	New Haven, CT, USA
12.06.06	Ball State	Muncie, IN, USA
12.15.06	Asylum	Portland, ME, USA

## Notes

All tracks were recorded and mixed by George Grant at Planet Grey Studios in New York City.

The CD was mastered by Flam at Mindswerve Studios in New York City ([www.mindswerve.com](http://www.mindswerve.com)).

All songs were written by Voltaire, Kitzis, Goeke, Sorino, and they were published by Mars Needs Music, BMI (Copyright, Voltaire 2006).

Track 01 is titled "Zombie Prostitute". This track is expected to appear on the upcoming full-length album "Ooky Spooky" in 2007 as published by Projekt. It originally appeared (in a live version) on the limited edition album "Live!" in 2006 as published by Voltaire (i.e., it was self released).

Track 02 is titled "Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead-Spanish Version)". This track is expected to appear (in English) on the upcoming full-length album "Ooky Spooky" in 2007 as published by Projekt. It was translated by Geraldine Garcia.

Track 03 is titled "China Girl". This track was originally written and performed by David Bowie, and it appeared on the album "Let's Dance" in 1983 as published by EMI. It originally appeared on the David Bowie tribute album "Contamination" in 2006 as published by Failure to Communicate. Special thanks are given to Michael D. Brya of FTC Records.

Track 04 is titled "Cantina (demo)". This track originally appeared (in a live version) on the limited edition album "Live!" in 2006 as published by Voltaire (i.e., it was self released). As noted, it contains repeated (and lascivious) homosexual allusions to the "Star Wars" series of movies. For example ...

Seems just one week before, their Twi'lek slave girl walked out the door  
And I guess I was the best the next best thing they'd seen

Son it don't mean you're weak, if you turn the other cheek  
But if you spread 'em both for Jabba, Son you ain't a man

O' Hammerhead he fixed his mind to screw me  
He whipped out his tool and nailed me to the bar  
My anus he destroyed, and now I got me hemorrhoids  
With my guts hangin' out my ass, I wasn't goin' far

I was hit over the head by ol' Han Solo  
I'd never guessed that pirate was a homo  
I woke up next to Chewbacca, I was smeared in wookiee caca  
And what they did to my poor nipples was a no no

Track 05 is titled "Hell in a Hand Basket". This track originally appeared on the limited edition album "Live!" in 2006 as published by Voltaire (i.e., it was self released). It was recorded live in Austin, Texas by Marc Gunn on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. As noted, this song includes lyrics from "Bohemian Rhapsody" written and performed originally by Queen on the album "A Night at the Opera" in 1975 as published by EMI.

More data are available at [www.projekt.com](http://www.projekt.com) as well as [www.voltaire.net](http://www.voltaire.net) and [www.myspace.com/voltairenyc](http://www.myspace.com/voltairenyc).