

= Eyes of the Insane =

" Eyes of the Insane " is a 2006 single by the American thrash metal band Slayer , taken from their 2006 album Christ Illusion . The lyrics explore an American soldier 's mental anguish following his return home from the second Gulf War , and are based on an article entitled " Casualty of War " in Texas Monthly magazine . " Eyes of the Insane " was written by vocalist Tom Araya during pre @-@ production for the album . The song was generally well received by critics , and also peaked # 15 on the Danish singles charts .

The accompanying music video by the Iranian director Tony Petrossian was recorded in the Los Angeles area in August 2006 . The film is presented as a close @-@ up of the soldier 's pupil and iris , which reflect disconcerting images of war @-@ themed horrors , flashbacks of his home , wife and children , and ultimately images of his death . " Eyes of the Insane " was used on the soundtrack to Saw III , and won an award for the Best Metal Performance at the 49th Grammy Awards .

= = Origins = =

While walking through an airport , vocalist Tom Araya picked up a March 2006 issue of Texas Monthly with a soldier 's helmet on the front cover . Seeing the article " Casualty of War " , he was interested enough to purchase a copy . The issue explored the involvement of military personnel from Texas in the Iraq War , and included a list of Texan soldiers who had died in the conflict . The feature was accompanied by photographs of some of the dead , while a further article dealt with the anguish of surviving soldiers on their return home . Araya later said that the article " blew his mind " .

Araya read the article during his flight back to Los Angeles . Pre @-@ production for Slayer 's ninth studio album Christ Illusion had just begun , and the band was about to undertake a three @-@ day rehearsal with producer Josh Abraham . Araya left his baggage at the hotel to attend the rehearsals , then returned to re @-@ read the article . Finding it to be " very profound " , he woke up in the middle of the night and wrote down the lyrics . He said that his treatment of the topic is " sincere " , and that he believes it to be " one that the military doesn 't want you to know . They sweep it under the rug , but it 's a story that needs to be told . " The band 's guitarist , Kerry King , has said that " these new songs [from the Christ Illusion album] aren 't political at all : ' Jihad ' , ' Eyes of the Insane ' ? it 's what 's spewing out at us from the TV . "

= = Musical structure = =

" Eyes of the Insane " is 3 minutes 23 seconds long . A slow drum pattern played by Dave Lombardo opens the track , over which Hanneman and King play angular and descending scales on guitar . These guitar riffs evolve from verse to verse , and have been described by Allmusic as " intensely harrowing " . The song gradually builds over the course of the verses , refrain and bridge , before resolving with a " towering " chorus .

Some reviewers paid particular attention to Araya 's vocal contribution . Zach Hothorn of Prefix magazine said the song " allows Araya to show his vocal range , deepening to build up tension and creating a wonderfully chilling 3 and a half minutes " , while Ian Robinson of musicOMH.com felt the track " is a distinct but welcome change of pace , Dave Lombardo 's machine @-@ gun rhythms forming the backbone for Tom Araya 's impressively intact scream . "

= = Music video = =

By the time Slayer decided that a music video should be filmed , touring commitments prevented their involvement in the actual shoot . Instead , others were contacted to produce the film . Director Tony Petrossian presented Slayer with the first draft , and the group made a few suggestions for improvement . Never having met him , King recalled Petrossian " had a treatment , and we all dug

the treatment so we just turned him loose . " " Eyes of the Insane " ' s war @-@ themed music video was filmed on August 13 , 2006 , in the Los Angeles area . Casting company Tolley Casparis Casting sought a male Caucasian between the ages of 18 and 26 to appear in the clip , with auditions held on August 10 , 2006 . The official project notes deemed that " This guy must be a serious actor , capable of emoting everything through his eyes . He was innocent a few months ago , now he is scarred by seeing so much fighting . Strong eyebrows that do not overpower the face . Scars or large veins actually a plus . "

The video was shot as a " first @-@ person narrative about the horrors leading up to the final moments of a soldier at war " , and was described as " a single , long and tight close @-@ up of the soldier 's eye with images clearly reflected within his pupil and iris and perfectly choreographed with the rhythm of the music . Reflected are disconcerting images of para trooping into enemy territory , gunfire , helicopters and tanks , explosions , poignant flashbacks of his wife and child and home , and the images of his death . " Two endings were shot ; one in which the soldier is killed as the result of sustained combat wounds , and another in which the soldier commits suicide by hanging - the latter one was used . Jeff Hanneman confirmed that the band " loved " the eye concept , and personally felt that the video was " pretty amazing " when he first viewed it . King admitted that the film is " pretty cool ? I thought it was neat idea ? very different , especially for us , because we usually do performance based videos . " The video was exclusively posted on mp3.com late in October 2006 . In April 2007 , it was announced that the video had earned a Metal Hammer Golden Gods Awards nomination for Best Video with the winner to be revealed on June 11 , 2007 , at the Koko Club in London , England .

= = Critical reception = =

Critics were generally positive when reviewing " Eyes of the Insane " . Stylus magazine 's Cosmo Lee described the track as " a dark , midpaced exploration of a soldier 's psyche " , and remarked that " it 's memorable and would be a good breather between the usual barnburners " . Peter Atkinson of KNAC.com felt that " ' Eyes of the Insane ' offers a post @-@ traumatic sequel to ' Mandatory Suicide ' , again with a soundtrack that recalls the original , but boasting a couple truly mammoth hooks that do shake things up . " Don Kaye of Blabbermouth made a comparison to a different Slayer track than Atkinson , and commented that " ' Eyes of the Insane ' and ' Catatonic ' both have that slow , grinding feeling of doom that the band has done so well before on classics like ' Dead Skin Mask ' . "

= = Awards = =

The song was nominated for Best Metal Performance at the 49th annual Grammy Awards . When asked for his thoughts on the nomination , King revealed that he did not " even care " , and noted that Slayer fans " don 't give a shit and that 's the most important thing to me " . The interviewer expressed his surprise at the nomination given Slayer 's " inflammatory " lyrics , to which King replied , " That would be the coolest thing , you know ? To win with the shit we write about . " The ceremony was held on February 11 , 2007 , at the Staples Center in Los Angeles , with Slayer competing against Mastodon , Lamb of God , Ministry and Stone Sour . Slayer won the Best Metal Performance Grammy award , although the band was unable to attend because of a conflicting North American headlining tour . Araya commented about the win from a hotel room in Columbus , Ohio : " Jeff [Hanneman] and I put a lot into ' Eyes of the Insane ' so we 're thrilled that the Grammy voters took the time to listen to it , and then vote for it . We 're out here on the road and we 're all really , really happy . " King disagreed , deeming the song " one of the poorest representations of us [Slayer] on the record [Christ Illusion] " . He further said that , if given the decision , he would have chosen the controversial track " Jihad " to represent Slayer from their ninth album Christ Illusion . Critical of the Recording Academy , King said , " Realistically , I think people on the academy who vote pick the household name ... And that 's what we are . "

== Other media ==

The soundtrack to the 2006 horror film *Saw III* included " Eyes of the Insane " , and was released on October 24 , 2006 , by Warcon Enterprises . The track was one of six songs performed by Slayer during their first US network television appearance on ABC @-@ TV 's *Jimmy Kimmel Live !* (January 19 , 2007) , and was the only song broadcast in its entirety . However , King dislikes playing " Eyes of the Insane " live , commenting , " It 's just dull to play , good song just dull to play on guitar . "

== Track listing ==

== Charts ==