

= Mythmaker =

Mythmaker is the tenth studio album by industrial group Skinny Puppy . It was released on January 30 , 2007 .

Lead vocalist Nivek Ogre said the band took a simplified approach , but that it was a difficult record to make . It charted on a number of billboard charts , and received mostly positive reviews , with critics focusing on whether it was stylistically similar to previous albums .

Tracks from the album were featured in the Saw V soundtrack and Jackass video game . The band supported the album with the Mythrus Tour later the same year it was released .

= = Background = =

Nivek Ogre stated that making the album was very difficult due to dealing with a personal relationship and other events in Los Angeles during the time the album was being made , but that those events were incorporated into the album itself. cEvin Key , while acknowledging Ogre 's personal difficulties , said that while the extended writing process of the album could make one feel " stranded within your head space " , having more time to write , and writing more songs than usual , helped the album .

Ogre called style of the music on Mythmaker " simplified " and said the band " stayed truer to cEvin 's compositions " . He continued that the album had a new sound , but also retained elements of the " archetypal " Skinny Puppy sound , and the production was superior to previous albums . Key stated that he would write songs , and then send them to Mark Walk , who would make changes and send them back . Key said that it " open [ed] a door for me to hear it differently " . Ogre said that album 's themes were control and mythology .

Mythmaker marks the third occasion on which a Skinny Puppy album cover was created by an artist other than long @-@ time collaborator Steven R. Gilmore , though he continues to do the sleeve design and layout for the band . The cover uses a painting by Manuel Ocampo entitled " Why I Hate Europeans " , which has been altered for the cover .

= = Release = =

Mythmaker was released on January 30 , 2007 . The album barely broke into the Billboard 200 at No. 200 , but charted in three other Billboard charts , reaching No. 4 on the Independent Albums Chart , No. 5 on the Dance / Electronic Albums Chart , and No. 17 on the Heatseekers Chart . It peaked in all four charts in the same week of February 17 , 2007 .

The soundtrack for the 2008 movie Saw V featured the song " Ugli " . It is the third time a Skinny Puppy song has been used on a soundtrack for a Saw film , with Saw II and Saw IV previously including tracks by the band . The song " politkiL " was featured in the Jackass video game .

The " Mythrus Tour " , the title of the Skinny Puppy tour in support of Mythmaker , took place in 2007 in North America and Europe . The live band consisted of Ogre (vocals and theatrics) , Key (keyboards and electronics) , and Justin Bennett (percussion) . " Mythrus " was originally intended to be spelled " Myth @-@ R @-@ Us " , according to Ogre , who stated " the word Mythrus ; I wanted it ' Myth @-@ R @-@ Us , ' like ' Toys @-@ R @-@ Us . ' That idea got shot down , though . " He also said that while the tour was going to be more intimate rather than a spectacle , he still wanted it to be theatrical .

= = Critical reception = =

Opinions about the album varied between claims of both little and significant change from previous work . Greg Prato of Allmusic said of Mythmaker , " Skinny Puppy always aligned themselves more with electro @-@ dance , and they continue to do so . " He goes on to say that " Nivek Ogre and cEvin Key obviously know what their following wants to hear , " and finishes by reiterating , " Not a lot has changed in the world of Skinny Puppy circa Mythmaker . "

Christa Titus of Billboard said , " ... Mythmaker radiates impending doom . " She notes that certain elements leave the listener " to appreciate how beautiful Skinny Puppy can be when it follows a more emotive , ambient trail , " but comments that there are some " industrial chargers " as well .

Ilker Yücel of ReGen Magazine said " Mythmaker certainly continues along the path paved by The Greater Wrong of the Right , representing an embrace of modern electronic music and pushing it to its limits . " Discussing individual songs , he said the first track , " Maginifishit " , was " a testament to Mark Walk 's impressive abilities to use Ogre 's voice as an instrument unto itself . " Yücel stated that " Jaher " is " full of dark atmosphere that is at once soothing and nightmarish " and called it " arguably the best track " on the album . He called " Politikil " " a somewhat more rock & roll type of track " with " chugs and churns of overdriven synths and guitar @-@ like tones , and a rocking rhythm " that is " sure to be a highlight when played live " . Yücel also said , " Many will still chide the band for not returning to the sound of past successes like Last Rights or Too Dark Park , but it 's this type of purist viewpoint that ultimately stagnates a band 's progress . "

Jaros?aw Jerry Szprot of Metal Storm , in comparing the album to their previous set , said " Mythmaker is basically more of the same . " He stated that while the band was doing a lot of experimenting , something was still missing , but continued that newcomers would probably find the album quite interesting and original . Trey Spencer of Sputnik Music described the album as a blend of elements from many of their previous albums , and also said it would be a good first album for new listeners to buy .

Erika Szabo of Rocknworld said , " Skinny Puppy provides listeners with more of the same thing with the slightest of changes . " She was positive about half the songs , but called the other half " less stimulating " . She also said the album was " expansive and expressive ... even if ... recycled " .

= = Track listing = =

Tracks from Allmusic .

All music composed by Ogre / Key / Walk .

= = Personnel = =

All credits from Allmusic .

= = = Musicians = = =

Ogre ? vocals , keyboards

cEvin Key ? synthesizers , keyboards , drums

Mark Walk ? synthesizers , bass , guitar

= = = Additional personnel = = =

Otto von Schirach ? sound design (7)

Dre " Databomb " Robinson ? percussion (2 , 10)

Ken " Hiwatt " Marshall ? synthesizers , electronics (5 , 6 , 8)

Saki Kaskas ? acoustic guitar (5) , guitar (12)

Traz Damji ? piano , synth (5 , 12)

= = = Production = = =

Producers ? Mark Walk , Ken " Hiwatt " Marshall , Scaremeister

Mixing ? Ken " Hiwatt " Marshall

Mastering ? Stephen Marcussen

Art direction , design ? Steven R. Gilmore

Painting ? Manuel Ocampo

= = Chart positions = =