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Reviews

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**FAITH**by [Kat Avila](#)

*Reviews may contain information that could be considered 'spoilers'. Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

**Recording label****Sony Music Entertainment Inc.**<http://www.tofurecords.com>**Credits**

Artist/Band: HYDE

**Grade: 9**

*"My voice is reaching the sky  
I'd do anything to save this life"  
—from Jesus Christ*

I bought HYDE's 2005 solo album **FAITH** (his third), as well as T.M.Revolution's 2003 album **coordinate**, because my curiosity was perked by the J-rock videos playing at the **Tofu Records** booth at **Anime Expo 2006**. When I put on the CD, I was taken aback when I heard HYDE singing about Jesus Christ and wondered with dismay what I had purchased, hoping the L.A.-recorded album wasn't simply religious propaganda. (So that's why the CD cover design by Kuniyoshi Kaneko featured a close-up on Christ/Hyde[?] with a crown of thorns.) After dutifully listening to the entire CD, I offered **FAITH** to my sister who waved it away. "It's not that bad," I said unconvincingly; my favorite track being the futuristic, dark *Dolly*.

*"Stay on my side mabushii sekai wo misetai*

*Let us exceed mou jikan ga nai are you in?"*  
—from *Countdown*

This is the kind of metal-infused CD that grows on you the longer you listen to it, especially if you don't listen to much J-rock, which I don't. KAZ is on guitar, with drums by Scott Garrett and bass guitar by Danny Lohner and Craig Adams alternating on different tracks. Lynne Hobday helped out with spoken vocals on a couple tracks, in addition to doing English translation. The insert is artistically well crafted. It would be easy to dismiss **FAITH** as the solo effort of a L'Arc-en-Ciel pretty boy (the band made their U.S. debut at **Otakon 2004**) who has gotten by on his looks than talent, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Besides his sexy, soothing voice, what made me a HYDE fan (at least for this album) was his lyrics, mostly sung and written out in English since this is Hyde's first international release; there was a reverberating depth in his words I hadn't expected—reflecting the album's multifaceted interpretation of "faith"—that made his music suddenly approachable and understandable.

*"I can feel. I can feel. I can feel.  
Now the truth is mine"*  
—from *I Can Feel*

**Faith** includes a bonus DVD with the music videos for *Countdown* and *Season's Call*. *Countdown* was used for the Japanese release of the 2005 U.S. action thriller *Stealth*. *Season's Call* was the opening theme song for the Production I.G TV anime series **Blood+**, based on the anime feature film **Blood: The Last Vampire**.

*"What right have we to kill? Full of conceit.  
The worst creatures in history."*  
—from *It's Sad*

In issue 2 of **Tofu Records' Miracle Zine**, there is an interview with HYDE about his solo album **FAITH** where he says he's not religious but had wanted to capture a sense of the power you experience when you enter great European cathedrals. You might feel a little lighter after you listen to the slightly spiritually and politically charged **FAITH**.

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