



Biloxi, MS

April 14, 2011

'Lez Zeppelin I,' Lez Zeppelin (Pie Records/Eagle Rock Entertainment, HHHH)

This recent release is the sophomore effort by NYC's all-female Led Zeppelin band (Steph Paynes/guitars, bassist Megan Thomas, drummer Leesa Harrington-Squyres and vocalist Shannon Conley). It was recorded at Long Island's analog Pie Studios on the same equipment used by Zep on their 1969 debut.

Now that the real Zeppelin can't be around, these girls are the next best thing and put on a great show. However, the actual first album by Led Zep is still available, and this valiant attempt only comes close. Highlights include Conley's vocals, which don't attempt to ape Plant's tonality, and Paynes' stellar guitar playing, the solid musical underpinning on bass and organ by Thomas and Leesa's Bonzo-esque drumming. "Communication Breakdown" and "How Many More Times" are just as blazing as ever. Go see Lez Zeppelin if they play somewhere within driving distance, and buy the CD if you want a good imitation.