

## **Hot New Release: Rush: Vapor Trails**

For Rush fans, it has been far too long since the Canadian Power Trio has graced us with a collection of new material. Fans of the band tend to be an incredibly loyal and highly critical lot. It is for this reason that the release of "Vapor Trails" was greeted with almost as much anxiety on the part of Rush loyalists as anticipation. Rumors of concept albums, and 12 minute tracks featuring mythical figures ran rampant in the message boards and fanzines. Would this be a return to form ala' 2112, or Permanent Waves? Would this be a continuation of the more commercial yet melodic sounds of the 80's and 90's? Or would this be something new altogether? The answer is all of the above. From the thunderous opening track "One Little Victory" to the atmospheric soundscapes of "Earthshine" Rush has succeeded in bringing us more of the same in an altogether different color. And it is a bright color. Vocalist/Bassist Geddy Lee stretches both his vocals and his bass playing farther than he has since the 70's. While the somewhat excessive use of bass chords gets a little tedious at times, the times when it does work are worth the price of the album in and of itself. Alex Lifeson takes a minimalist approach, choosing to paint pictures with a broad brush. His thick, melodic playing more than fills the gap left by a lack of keyboards that Rush fans have gotten used to over the last 20 years. Neal Peart shows us once again why he is King of the Drumming Hill. Blending understated and tasteful licks with the expertise and mouth dropping perfection that can still amaze after all these years. This is a must have for any hard rock fan, not just Rush fans.