

## MALEVOLENT CREATION

'Lost Commandments'

### MASSACRE CANNIBAL CORPSE

'Centuries Of Torment: The First 20 Years'  
Metal Blade

Two of the most prolific and admired bands in death metal, neither Malevolent Creation nor Cannibal Corpse have anything to prove at this point, but the nature of today's music industry dictates that DVDs like this are now an essential part of any band's bid to survive from year to year. As a result, it's curious that there's such a gross disparity between the two efforts. 'Lost Commandments' is a decent enough attempt to plug the hole between studio albums, but despite boasting two complete hour-long live sets, there's nothing here to send a thrilled shiver down the spine. In fact, it's all a bit perfunctory and uneventful. [5] In stark contrast, 'Centuries Of Torment' is absolutely phenomenal on every conceivable level. From its gloriously glossy and gruesome packaging through to the sheer, near-comical size of the thing – three discs comprising a positively deranged seven-and-a-half hours in total – this is arguably the finest extreme metal DVD ever released, if only in terms of value-for-money. Luckily, the contents more than match the ambition. Disc One is host to a three-hour documentary about Cannibal Corpse's two decades of active service; informative, funny and even touching on occasion, it rattles by at a laudable pace and deftly reaffirms that, regardless of where you stand on their somewhat myopic musical approach, they have deservedly become the definitive death metal band. Disc Two is rammed full of live footage from as recently as 2007 and as far back as 1989. All the band's music videos are included too, in all their low-budget *shlocky* glory; 'Decency Defied', a particularly goofy highlight. Disc Three rounds up all the documentary off-cuts and covers everything from Vincent Locke's artwork to the uncanny similarities between George Fisher and 'Metalocalypse's' Nathan Explosion. Of course, as with all such DVDs this is a fans-only affair, but it's so well thought out, comprehensive and entertaining that it sets an extremely high new standard. [9]

GRAHAM ELLIS



## FAMOUS MONSTERS

James Hoare backs into a darkened room with the latest horror DVDs.

The high-profile offering in an otherwise deluge of no-name tat, 'Awake' [3] (Icon, out now) starts things off poorly by featuring a key plot point that turns out to have little to do with the plot, and more damningly, Hayden Christensen. We find ourselves deep in direct-to-DVD land with 'Breathing Room' [1] (DNC, out now), which answers the question 'what would 'Saw' be like if nothing happened?' almost as well as the, admittedly expensive looking, location porn of 'The Passage' [5.5] (DNC, out October 13) does for 'what would 'Hostel' be like if the plot took place in a five minute window 40 minutes in, and then nothing happened?'. After all the attempted post-modernism, it's good to be back in more conventional territory for the possessed puppetry of 'Dead Silence' [6.5] (Universal, out now) and the seemingly predictable isolated teens on spring break shock-by-numbers of 'Solstice' [7] (Icon, out October 20) which after a thoroughly sign-posted set up actually hurls a genuine surprise at you like a breezeblock from a flyover. 'The Tattooist' [5] (Icon, out now) deserves some pity points for its mad, desperate scramble for an imaginative niche within the over-populated council estate of modern horror but the potential everyman fears of, er, cursed Samoan tattooing rituals are probably very far from home for most viewers, as is the unbelievable awfulness of post-apocalyptic (on a 'Blakes 7'-type budget) Spanish chase-fodder 'Rottweiler' [2] (DNC, out now), which is worth a mention for containing an early glimpse of the wee lassie from 'Pan's Labyrinth' and being the more recent work of 'Faust: Love Of The Damned' director Brian Yuzna who should have probably stuck to setting fight sequences to Coal Chamber.

CHRIS NAUGHTON

## ENVY

'Transfovista'

### ROCK ACTION THE FANTÔMAS MELVINS BIG BAND

'Kentish Town Forum – London 1st  
May 2006'

IPECAC

'Transfovista' is the first full DVD to document the fifteen year career of the now legendary Japanese hardcore/noise nutters Envy, and comes released on Mogwai's own Rock Action imprint. Presented in a beautifully packaged deluxe case, Transfovista covers songs from seventeen live performances that span many years of Envy's development as a musical force. Through the various different performances it is easy to see their '80s and '90s hardcore influences but it is also interesting to watch their progression from the relatively lo-fi, small club beginnings of tracks like 'Chain Wandering Deeply' and 'Lies, And Release From Silence' through to the higher profile festival events on 'Awaken Eyes'. Having noted their development over time it is also interesting to mention the things that don't change, such as their intensity, urgency and passion in delivering their music in whatever era you care to look at. [8] Moving on from Envy to the new Fantômas/Melvins Big Band DVD. What is presented here is the full 90-plus minute set from their May 2006 show at London's Kentish Town Forum featuring Mike Patton, Buzz Osborne, Dave Lombardo, Trevor Dunn, Dale Crover, and Sir David Scott Stone all contributing to an intense and compelling live show. Strangely decked out in a Disneyland shirt Mike Patton is clearly the ringleader for this experimental clashing of the titans, managing – in-between playing with lots of crazy electronics/keyboards – to bring the unique peculiarity of Fantômas together with the unstoppable might of the Melvins. While certain songs like 'Hooch' and 'Pigs Of The Roman Empire' come across quite obviously in the huge setlist, it is impressive to see how the two bands, and two drummers manage to keep things running seamlessly by segueing songs with experimental noise sections, drum solo's, Mike Patton's unique brand of vocal insanity and intricate group harmony and melodies. [8.5]



# CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON



WHY SHOULD WE  
TALK ABOUT MUSICAL  
EQUIPMENT WHEN SOME  
OF THE MOST TALENTED  
MUSICIANS IN METAL  
CAN DO IT FOR US?

THIS MONTH:  
**GUS G**  
(FIREWIND)

Since I'm a huge Peter Frampton fan, I always wanted to acquire a talk box effect pedal and learn how to use it. My prayers were heard recently after I signed an endorsement deal with Rocktron and they sent me their brand new 'Banshee II Talk Box'. The day the package arrived at my door, I felt like a little kid that just got his first toy.

I've been jamming on my Rocktron talk box ever since and have been getting better at it. I'm looking forward to using it on our upcoming tour with Firewind.

As for my favourite piece of gear I'd definitely say it's my ESP signature model. I love ESPs because they put so much passion in what they do. Their guitars are a piece of art in my opinion. They recently made me a new model, which is basically the same exact model I've been using since 2004, but red in colour and without the Floyd Rose. Even though my red model has so far been known to come with a tremolo, this new model has a standard bridge. I guess I did that cause I love the red, but didn't feel so comfortable playing it live with the tremolo. I'm happy I got one without it. I'll be playing it in on our upcoming UK and European tours, so those of you that plan to come out to the shows, you'll see it.

Also, for those who have been asking many times, the gauge of my strings is custom made and goes from 0.10 to 0.56. I put Elixir strings on all my guitars. They make these anti-rust strings and basically the sound almost never goes bad, you don't lose sustain at all and with one pack of strings you can get by for two months (well, unless you break a string). Before I was able to afford a guitar tech, Elixirs were the perfect solution for me on tour 'cos I was always too lazy to change strings, so I'd change once every ten gigs or so.

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