

The Dwarves

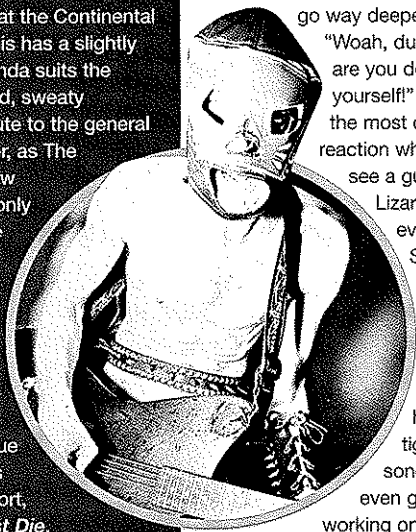
Fuck You Up And Get Live
MVD/MRA



"Asking which Dwarves album is the greatest is like asking which one of the Olsen twins is the sluttiest." That's the frank assessment of one

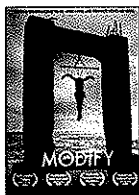
of this Chicago band's fans prior to the start of this, their one and only DVD. A multi-camera affair shot on video in late 2004 at the Continental Club, New York, this has a slightly dodgy look that kinda suits the band. The cramped, sweaty surrounds contribute to the general chaos and disorder, as The Dwarves' fans show themselves to be only slightly less insane than the band themselves. The sound is fairly decent without being flashy, while the setlist runs the gamut of their back catalogue with a heavy focus on their last up effort, *The Dwarves Must Die*.

Extra features, or "Sextras", on this release include several videos, as well as some split-screen alternate camera views for a few of the songs performed during the live set. DC



Modify

Body Modification Doco
Stomp



Get inside the twisted minds of those individuals who choose to tattoo, pierce, slice, brand, scarify, stretch and just generally fuck with their bodies.

This is not about hardcore dudes with sleeves of trust fund tattoos - some of these people have got issues that go way deeper than that.

"Woah, dude, why are you doing that to yourself!" is probably the most common reaction when you see a guy like The Lizardman, or the even freakier Stalking Cat, who desperately wants to perfect his look as a half human half tiger (the crazy sonofabotch has even got scientists working on retractable claws!). You think your parents were pissed when you came home with that eyebrow piercing? How do you think the mum and dad of the guy who sliced his cock in half feel? This film is not for the squeamish. AS



Coheed & Cambria

Live At The Starland Ballroom CD/DVD
Sony/BMG

With a desire to transcend the mere hard rock band idea, Nyack, New York's Coheed And Cambria have created an entire universe for their fans to enter into. And just recently - since the release of their latest album, *Good Apollo, Etcetera Etcetera...* - that universe is getting rather crowded indeed.

Big hair, comic books, tight tonsils, prog experimentation, operatic themes, hard rock riffs, conceptual lyric and really long album titles permeate this unique C&C scape. With all that they've done to stand themselves apart from every other band out there, and where possible deliver their fanbase that little bit extra, expectation surrounding their first DVD release is obviously high. Sadly however, *Live At The Starland Ballroom* is nothing out of the ordinary. It's filmed just like any MTV live performance and the band's performance, while good, is certainly nothing spectacular. And, while admittedly their songs average around the six-minute mark, at just 9 tracks plus a solo acoustic encore by Claudio Sanchez, this feels like slightly less than a full C&C live set.

Accompanying the DVD is a CD of exactly the same Starland Ballroom show, but it doesn't sound as good as the full 5.1

experience of the DVD.

Extra features include some extra live performances from the 2004 Skate and Surf Festival, brief interviews, three film clips, and a Making Of the "Blood Red Summer" clip documentary.

Obsessed Coheed fans are no doubt going to watch and rewatch this thing endlessly, picking up the nuances and subtleties of the band's spaced-out prog jams, but it's not going to blow anyone else's mind. It's the kinda thing you'd expect from a band on a major label, but from Coheed you've come to expect a bit more. HS



Dio

Holy Diver Live
Eagle Eye/Rajon



The angry elf of heavy metal, Ronnie James Dio revisits his classic period live on stage at the London Astoria in October 2005, performing his

1982 magnum opus *Holy Diver* in its entirety. The bio accompanying this makes the call that this "might just be one of the best hard rock gigs of all time." Bwaahahahaha!!! Pocket rocket Dio puts in an okay, albeit cheesy, performance, and his voice goes the distance in a what turns out to be a quite the lengthy set, but as far as being up there with the best hard rock gigs of all time? Nup. The massive stage production Dio were renowned for throughout the '80s is much subtler these days, possibly due to the band's waning popularity more than any recently acquired good taste. In addition to *Holy Diver* they deliver songs from other periods of Ronnie's history, including Rainbow's "Tarot Woman" and "Gates Of Babylon", and Black Sabbath's "Heaven And Hell". MB

Various Artists

Acquired Taste
Sub Pop/Stomp



Acquired Taste is a Sub Pop sampler showing exactly where the former home of grunge is at 15+ years down the line. It's looking quite healthy, really. Looks like it's been taking in lots of oats and tofu and that kind of thing... The label has continued to reinvent itself, moving gently towards a softer, mellower vibe while still being able to accommodate a band like Mudhoney, who released their first records through the label roughly 20 years ago. *Acquired Taste* is as diverse as most good labels samplers are, featuring 25 assorted videos from Sub Pop's eclectic roster, hopefully enticing you with the bigger guns such as Sleater-Kinney, The Shins, The Postal Service, Hot Hot Heat, etc, so as to introduce you to the likes of Kinski, Ugly Casanova and the crazy-arse Jennifer Gentle. Points off for not including Comets On Fire. AS

DIY Or Die

BURN THIS DVD



DIY Or Die

How To Survive As An Independent Artist
MVD/MRA

A 60-minute doco exploring the motivations of a variety of independent American artists, *DIY or Die* features interviews with many legends of punk rock as well as a stack of other artists working in various media including film, graphic art, fashion, dance and music. Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat/Fugazi), J Mascis (Dinosaur Jr.), Jim Rose (Jim Rose Circus Sideshow), J.G. Thirlwell (Foetus), Lydia Lunch, Mike Watt (Minutemen), Richard Kern (filmmaker), Ron Asheton (The Stooges), and other rockers offer their insight. While the film is subtitled *How To Survive As An Independent Artist*, it doesn't really get into the nuts and bolts of how to go about keeping your head above water while chasing your dreams. What it does, however, is to provide real life testimony from people who have done it themselves and are continuing to do it themselves, which goes a long way to demystifying the whole thing and providing a ray of hope that with much hard yakka, you could do it yourself too. AS