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DVD REVIEW

SAMHAIN - LIVE 1984: STARDUST BALLROOM, HOLLYWOOD, CA. Review by Mark Jason Murray



Following the demise of the New Jersey horror punk legends, The Misfits, in 1982, founder and singer Glenn Danzig emerged a year later with a darker musical project, Samhain. Although only releasing two LPs and one EP, the band became instantly popular, no doubt due in part to the humongous Misfits fan base, while also gaining recognition on their own. More often than not, Misfits fans regard Samhain just as highly and the band continues to maintain a cult

status.

Video footage of the seems to be scarce with the only official video release (of two live shows) included in the Samhain box set. This new DVD is a welcome addition to any hardcore fans collection, filmed in 1984 by Al Flipside of Flipside magazine. In terms of video quality think public access as you get cheesy fades and overlaps but the multiple camera shots make it much more enjoyable. The band pounds through 15 tracks all from the 'Initium' LP or 'Unholy Passion' EP (with the exception of 'Halloween II' and the Misfits classic 'Die, Die My Darling'). Although a bit sloppy the band and the crowd are energetic and every fan will want to add this to their collection. A couple of things that stood out to

me is the fact that the band (excluding Danzig) seem extremely young as well as when Danzig dons a guitar and although suffering through technical difficulties, pounds out 'Archangel' with noticeable delight implying some type of higher personal fondness for the track.

The audio is direct from the sound board which makes it much more eniovable than if it had the 'live

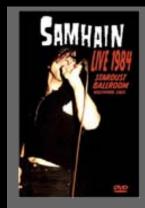
camcorder' sound fan videos often have. The only gripe is the static and distortion that occurs often in the vocal track, sometimes overpowering the music. The 5.1 remix track is a nice addition but doesn't really improve on the situation. All in all this is a decent release that fans won't want to pass up.

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Released by: Music Video Distributors

Year of Release: 2005

Running time: 48 min.

Rating: NR

Color format: Color

Audio / Subtitles: Stereo, 5.1 surround

Region Code: 1, NTSC

Aspect Ratio: Full frame

16:9 enhanced?

Special Features*: None

Trailer online:



special features!)



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