

Bad Brains
Live at CBGB 1982
(MVD VISUAL)

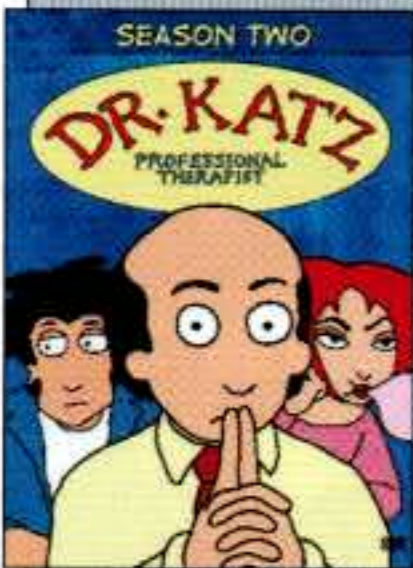


With twenty blistering tracks crammed into sixty minutes of mayhem, "Live" delivers everything you'd want from a thrash-punk band made up for four Rastafarians. When Bad Brains isn't peeling the paint off the walls of New York's most-famous-defunct-venue-cum-fashion-statement with their shriekingly fast punk, they're Jah-ing it up with some dreadlock bobbing Jamaican soul. As you might expect from footage culled 25 years ago in a dingy, low-fi club, the sound quality leaves a little to be desired, especially when things get really hairy on the ludicrously blistering "Banned in DC" and "Riot Squad". Short of a souped up DeLorean, this DVD is about as close as you're going to get to either CBGBs or Bad Brains these days.

badbrains.com

Brian Greenaway

Dr. Katz Professional Therapist
Season Two
(COMEDY CENTRAL)



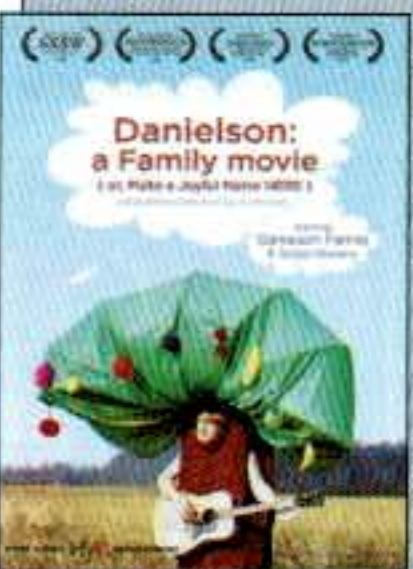
The be-squiggled doctor and his slightly damaged companions are back on DVD for the second season of the too-soon cancelled show. Jonathan Katz, voicing the titular doctor, is still accompanied by his loafer son Ben (H. Jon Benjamin), his secretary Laura (Laura Silverman), and best friend Stanley (Will Lebow). Among his crackpot patients are the deadpan Steven Wright, Rita Rudner, and Ray Romano - each performing their own stage bits while Katz offers vapid insights. The high points of the season are the endearingly abrasive Janeane Garofalo (with her 1995-dated dating disorders) and the consistently over the top Kevin Meaney.

comedycentral.com

Dave Tow



Danielson
Danielson: A Family Movie
(HVE)



Throughout "Danielson: A Family Movie" I kept thinking about my own family - a much crabbier bunch of redheads who grew up with a strong religious upbringing - and how we could never be anything like the Danielson Family. They're so nice to each other it's creepy. The majority of this piecemeal documentary focuses on the idiosyncratic work ethic of Daniel Smith, his siblings' perceptions of "Danielson" and its affect on their lives. There's little revealed from Daniel, the band's mastermind, other than spouting off the same mantras he states in just about every interview. Unlike "The Fearless Freaks" which gives a lot of insight into the strange personality of Wayne Coyne, Daniel Smith comes off as more of an internal savant, whose devotion to his Christian God cripples his ability to do anything but create for Him. It's no small wonder then that this quirky band fits in with indie rock better than with contemporary Christian bands. They're just too damn weird.

danielson.info

Jeremiah Griffey

The Eastpak Resistance Tour
Volume II DVD
(I SCREAM)



The Eastpak Resistance tour celebrated American hardcore in its purist form, but across Europe instead of in the US. This DVD captures the tour in all its stage-diving glory with performances by Sworn Enemy, Ignite, Death By Stereo and Madball. Death By Stereo turn up the heat with a blistering set highlighted by a killer version of "Wasted Words", while Madball bring hardcore back to its NYC roots with a stunning rendition of "Pride".

While the DVD is hampered by poor sound quality during some performances, the bands unrelenting energy makes up for it.

iscreamrecords.com

James Wright

Various Artists
Metal = Life
(HOPELESS)



You like metal? You'll dig this. Two music CDs plus One DVD. 38 songs, 18 videos. And the talent? Here is a sampling. God Forbid, Bleeding Through, As I Lay Dying, In Flames, Into Eternity, Evergreen Terrace, Bloodlined Calligraphy, Seemless, Goatwhore, The Black Dahlia Murder, Fear Before the March of Flames, Misery Signals, Every Time I Die, and Converge. And videos from most all of them. It's a three-disc set proving that metal is alive and well in America.

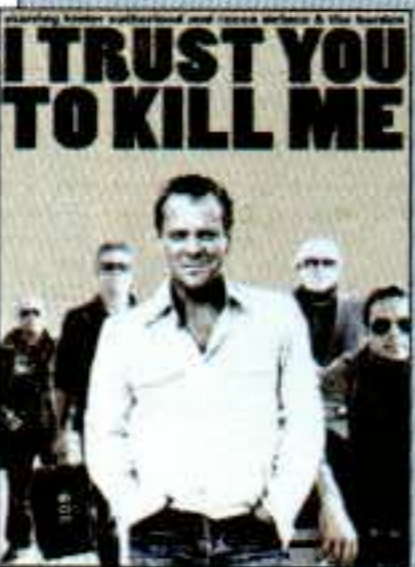
And what might be surprising to those that haven't been paying attention, the metal is fresh, with range. Sure, there are lots of bands clogging up any of the sub-genres of metal, simply due to the internet, Myspace, overpopulation of labels/bands and a society that feeds upon imitation and replication. But the music here is a representation of much of what is good in today's metal scene. Granted, this isn't a very 'underground' grouping of metal, but it's all far from mainstream. All you haters (or anyone sporting a Disturbed shirt) need to line up and digest this compilation. I promise you will hate part of it and be blown off your ass by much of it. Either way, you'll at least be more informed when you spout off about the American metal scene. Information is good.

hopelessrecords.com

Davros Kaled



Rocco Deluca & The Burden
I Trust You To Kill Me
(IRONWORKS/FIRST INDEPENDENT PICTURES)



The film, eponymous with the band's debut album, documents Rocco Deluca & The Burden's first world tour in support of their then-forthcoming album. Ostensibly, the film is about perseverance, especially on the part of the band and their crew, when confronted with a difficult and an often-unwelcoming industry. However, at the core of the feature is a portrayal of relationships and artistic honesty. The band has a truly baffling interconnection with their tour manager, 24's Kiefer Sutherland. Although in this context, Sutherland's fame is not a major issue. The dynamism and parallel drawn between Deluca and Sutherland is far more important. Both who are manic in their own way and haunted by distant fathers. The music is great, the band's bluesy rock & roll is perfectly suited, and bears with it that selfsame haunting spirit.

roccodeluca.com

Dave Tow

Various Artists
Lab Results Volume One
(GSL)



From grainy footage of The Locust being interviewed by a Japanese zine to Year Future's music video pastiche of compiled political images, everything about the first DVD sampler from Gold Standard Labs screams "EXTREMELY LOW BUDGET". But that means nothing as to the DVD's cool factor. Where else can At the Drive-in heads find live footage of Omar and Cedric on bass and drums grooving along their heroin highs in De Facto. Where else can you find brilliant Sub-

title and Veronica Lipgloss & the Evil Eyes videos juxtaposed with purposefully shitty An Albatross vids? Where else, I dare ask, can you see Bobby Bray in women's panties and a fur vest? Besides Youtube.

goldstandardlabs.com

Jeremiah Griffey

Kurau Phantom Memory
Between Two Worlds
(ADV)



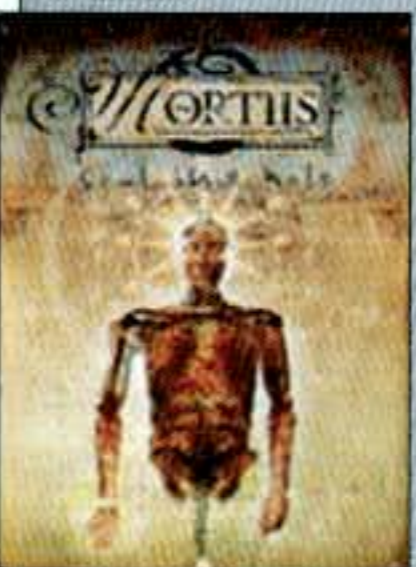
From the creators of "Rahxephon" and the sublime "Fullmetal Alchemist" comes Kurau: Phantom Memory. On its surface, Kurau is a straightforward science fiction thriller - super powered Uber-human destroys the baddies and is pursued by forces both good and evil. However, underneath it's shiny (but entertaining) exterior lies a much more humanistic core. Kurau is essentially about coming to grips with identity, illustrated by the super-powering of the title character, a scientist's young daughter exposed to an experiment. What follows is a universal parable about how it is not necessarily what we are that defines us, but instead how our actions determine identity. Kurau is a thinking-man's sci-fi thriller.

advfilms.com

Dave Tow



Mortiiis
Soul in a Hole
(EARACHE)



Imagine if Trent Reznor were a troll who lived in Norway. Although looking like a figment of someone's nightmare, he is oh so real. He is Mortiiis. Dark wave industrial monster. Blending the smooth synthesizer strides with stop/start walls of distorted guitar, the formula is both at once familiar and fresh, as it is being filtered through a Norwegian hobgoblin. This DVD representation is a live set of 14 songs recorded in London, four videos showing the Goth-troll in action, some interview footage and some behind the scenes for the video shoot on "The Grudge". What might catch a few novice listeners off guard is the underlying melodies that Mortiiis employ. For as intense as the image may portray, the aggression is honed down to a minimal blue cold hate. Songs often pull back to the barest, most icy slow movements to set up the car crash tempos and climactic song builds. There isn't a lot in Mortiiis that hasn't been done better by Mr. Reznor, but Mortiiis always delivers a quality product with a cool image. It won't replace NIN in your collection, but should snuggle its pointed troll nose right up next to it.

mortiis.com

Davros Kaled