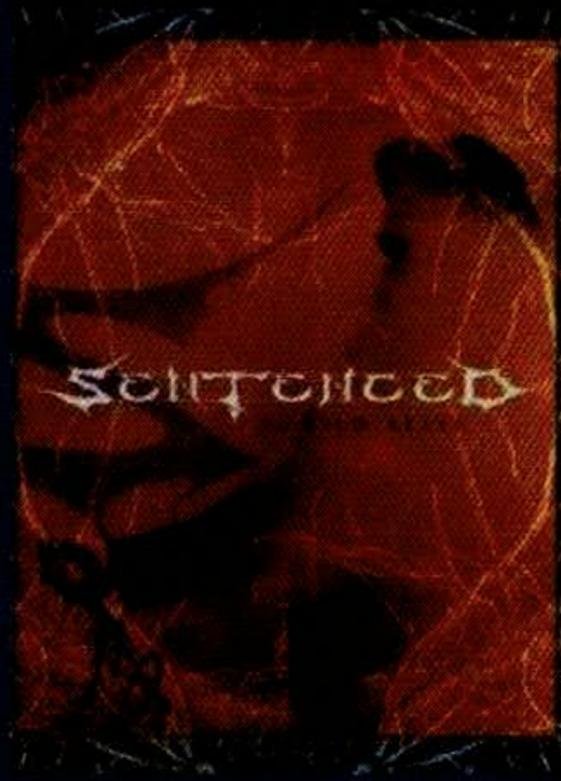


DVD REVIEWS

SENTENCED
Buried Alive
Century Media Records



My dear friends we are gathered here on this sad day, October 1, 2005, to pay well-deserved tribute to the band Sentenced—who tragically and not too quietly ended their life in the same manner that they lived it: on the concert stage among their most ardent and supportive fans. Yes, the DVD release that bears the same name as the CD concert gives the viewers the final live performance from the band, who decided to call it a career with their release *Funeral Album*, a powerful gothic metal CD issued in early 2005. This “suicide” came after sixteen years as a group and essentially at the mass decision that everything that could have been done in the band, was done. It was filmed in their native Finland, at the club Teatria.

With over two hours of concert material and a heaping amount of bonus features, you get an excellent concert that features a strong selection from the band's final album with singer Ville Laihiala (who has since gone on to focus his efforts with Poisonblack). The years with Ville as frontman had more gothic metal than their original

sound—the melodic death metal they played while fronted by Taneli Jarva.

It was this gothic sound that ended up inspiring the likes of HIM and The Rasmus. Their fans from the beginning will enjoy the fact that Jarva returns to the stage with the band during this show and performs five numbers from the time that he was one of the group's members. He has a darker, rougher voice and is more along the lines of the growlers of today's black metal scene.

The bonus content gives all of the band's videos on the second disc, along with interviews that, while in Finnish, do come with sub-titles for the rest of us to enjoy. There is a cryptic segment in which the band is walking through the town with a casket as if it were a funeral procession. It leads into a behind the scenes look at the video for “Ever Frost.” With all this material to enjoy, it's hard to find yourself not coming to some sense of sadness as the band chooses to close the book on their existence in such a dramatic fashion. Their impact was definitely felt in this aspect of the metal genre—may they rest in peace.

—Ken Pierce

EUROPE
*The Final Countdown Tour:
Live In Sweden 1986—20th
Anniversary Edition*
Music Video Distributors

EUROPE
20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN TOUR 1986
LIVE IN SWEDEN

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the album and tour for *The Final Countdown*, MVD has released a film that allows fans of Europe to relive the glory days of hair metal once again. It is also the perfect way to see the band in their prime if you too young to enjoy them during the old days and had to hear about them from the folks among from the old school.

To say that the song “The Final Countdown” was both a blockbuster and an instantly memorable hit would be an understatement. It was one of those tracks that once you heard it, it was in your head forever. This would be the case whether you loved it or hated it, and its popularity made the band a juggernaut. It was a majestic track with flourishing keyboards, and not only was it living consistently on the MTV rotation and on rock radio, but it also became a mainstay at sporting events worldwide. It single-handedly helped to propel Europe into the stratosphere as a hard rock superpower.

This concert is chock full of great moments from the release, and a full seven numbers are from the album *The Final Countdown* alone. This is footage of

a band that has risen to the top, and is on top, of their game. Just from the level of energy that the group is displaying, anyone can tell what they're about.

They're the hometown heroes, especially during this performance, and it's easy for them to show how appreciative they are for their fans. I remember seeing this concert on MTV and it just looks so much better after the re-mastering process, as far as audio and visual. The exciting performance of Joey Tempest, the band's front man, shows why his face grazed all the rock magazines of the day. John Norum defies the senses with his stellar guitar work.

Viewers get this as well as some great present-day interview footage of the band. They can also enjoy an extensive photo gallery with many unseen shots. The bonus features also deliver a segment where the band visits the very studio where they recorded the hit record and get to hear the only existing unreleased outtake from the sessions. Tempest and Leven penned the instrumental track, “Where Men Don't Dare.” Go back to the eighties one more time.

—Ken Pierce