



Guns N' Roses: The DVD Collector's Box
Rating: 3/10

2007 is supposedly the year that we will finally see the release of Guns N' Roses' Chinese Democracy, but no one's holding their breath. Axl Rose, the only remaining original member of the band involved in the project, just doesn't seem to be able to get his shit together; perhaps he's too busy maintaining his bizarrely red-tinted corn rows to put in the requisite time and energy for this possibly epic (or possibly terrible) new effort. A tentative date has been set for this March, but the odds are looking pretty slim for it to actually materialize by then. In the meantime, one can be absolutely unsatisfied by a new unauthorized DVD release, Guns N' Roses - The DVD Collector's Box, consisting of two discs: Guns N' Roses: Sex N' Drugs N' Rock N' Roll, and Axl Rose: The Prettiest Star.

In typical unauthorized biopic fashion, these DVDs contain absolutely no original music and very little authentic interview footage of the band, which is to the incredible detriment of this set. Instead, the footage consists of interviews with has-been, "music industry" nobodies, including friends, journalists, and promoters you've most assuredly never heard of, cheesy video footage of Hollywood, and an omniscient female British narrator.

The first disc, Sex N' Drugs is a basic history of the band, from Izzy and Axl's small-town upbringing to their journey to Hollywood the band's subsequent rise to fame, pockmarked by strife and struggle and trial and tribulation and drugs and alcohol. Blah, blah, blah. The Prettiest Star fares slightly better, as it contains a bit more home video footage of the famous frontman, but it is also racked by WTF interviews from people purporting to be Axl's childhood friends, and a cheap, thrown-together feel. Again, it is a typical rise to and fall from fame story; the formula is a very familiar one.

The resulting DVD set is an uninteresting blend of material that appears to be questionable in its authenticity at best. How is one supposed to trust the opinions of the inner workings of the G'N'R circle from some hack reporter for some garbage metal magazine? These DVDs feel like a piecemeal collection thrown together by a video distributor out to make a quick buck, which is probably not too far from the truth here. You're better off waiting for Chinese Democracy, even if it does take another three years.

