

Here we are, 20 years since the release of *Appetite for Destruction* (jeez—has it really been that long already?), and Guns N' Roses remain a hot commodity, especially when it comes to tell-all books and DVDs. With *Chinese Democracy* still nowhere in sight, some see this as an opportunity to glut the market with additional unauthorized product, such as the recently released double DVD set, *The DVD Collector's Box*. Now, I'm not sure exactly what makes this a 'Collector's Box,' as it's comprised solely of two DVD titles that have already been released separately—*Guns N' Roses: Sex N' Drugs' N' Rock N' Roll* and *Axl Rose: The Prettiest Star*—with absolutely no bonus bits or elaborate packaging (not even an obligatory key chain!).

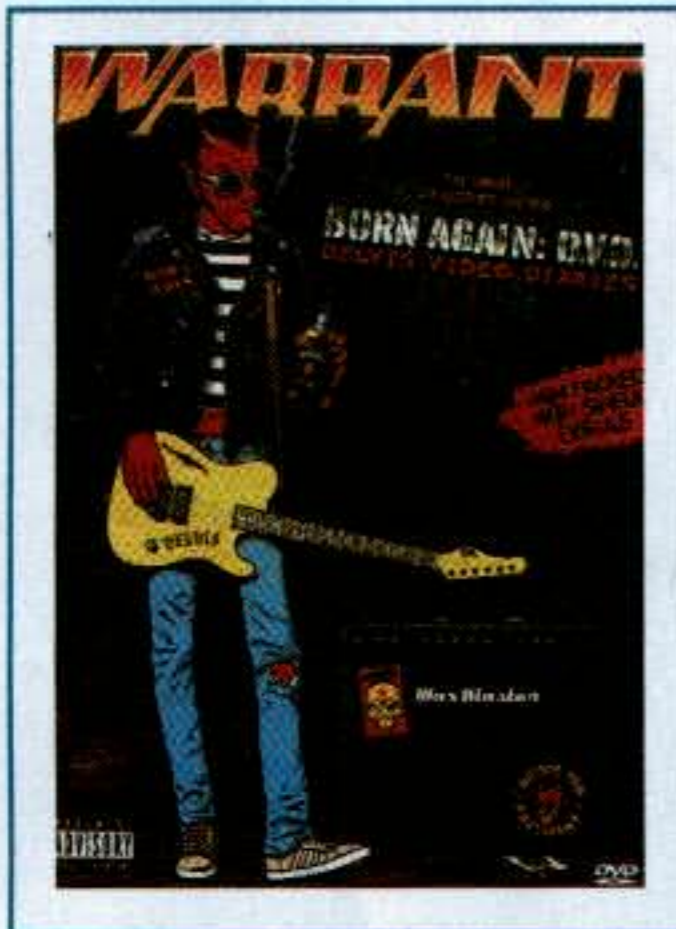
But really where it falls flat is that there's nothing new or groundbreaking here. Most GN'R fans will be able to recount all the events that lead up to the band becoming one of the biggest in the world in their sleep by this point. And with no GN'R music allowed to be used, what you get is some no-name hair metal-esque band continuously trying to approximate "It's So Easy" and "Out Ta Get Me." Also, there are almost no substantial performances or interviews with actual Guns N' Roses band members—only friends, acquaintances, and hangers-on. Of the two, the GN'R disc is the weakest—bordering on painfully unwatchable. Nothing new, just the same old B.S. rehashed for the zillionth time; a low point being the two random fans who wax poetic about their favorite and least favorite albums.

The Axl disc fares better, due to the inclusion of much more

Guns N' Roses The DVD Collector's Box Chrome Dreams



interesting/knowledgeable interview subjects, including GN'R's original manager, Vicky Hamilton, Hollywood Rose guitarist Chris Weber, longtime GN'R photographer Robert John, and renowned journalist Malcolm Dome. It's this disc that may offer a nugget or two that longtime admirers may be intrigued by—including school pictures of Axl, images of his hometown (Lafayette, Indiana), as well as Hamilton and Weber's memories of Axl's early days in LA. Still, it's very debatable if the Axl DVD is worthy of most fans' time. If you must, buy *Axl Rose: The Prettiest Star* by itself, and completely bypass the goofy *Guns N' Roses: Sex N' Drugs' N' Rock N' Roll* and *The DVD Collector's Box* entirely. —Greg Prato



Warrant Born Again: D.V.D.—Delvis Video Diaries Down Boys Records/ Deadline Music



Filmed in "Sin-A-Scope," Warrant's new DVD is chock-full of performances, in-the-studio, live and backstage footage and hilarious home videos. The disc is quite special due to the fact that the band created it DIY-style with their fans' interests in mind. Getting it into stores was a real labor of love for band founders Jerry Dixon (bass) and Erik Turner (guitar) who served as executive producers. Dixon also handled editing duties along with original Warrant drummer Steven Sweet and close friend of the band/KISS guitarist Tommy Thayer. Plus, all five members of the group (original gui-

tarist Joey Allen and new singer Jamie St. James round out the lineup) had a hand in shooting the bonus material. Who spiked Warrant's "Devil's Juice" with creativity?! The DVD's main program is comprised of 12 music videos—one for each song from Warrant's 2006 album *Born Again*—filmed specifically for this release. The point of each video is to simply show the quintet playing their cool new songs, nothing more and nothing less. In this day and age of downloading music and taking it on the go, Warrant wants you to actually sit down and take time out to enjoy their tunes. What better way to do that than with some eye candy?

While a performance makes up the bulk of each clip, there are many additional features that distinguish the videos from one another such as light, color and image special effects, previously recorded footage and format changes. Three videos particularly stand out: "Hell, CA,"

which begins with a cute bit about "Down Boys" Airlines' flight 69 (where passengers get complimentary "Cherry Pie"); "Angels," which details what life on the road is really like; and "Roxy," which has a classic video vixen writhing around. With the better songs though—like "Love Strikes Like Lightning," "Dirty Jack" and "Good Times"—just watching Warrant perform is good enough!

The DVD's bonus material is quite a treat for longtime Warrant fans, and easily could have stood alone as a separate disc. "Mini Monster" is a collection of various home videos that reveal a chunk of each band member's personality—mostly the funny, goofball sides of five guys who know how to have a great time whether on a golf course, in the recording studio (the pop-ups during these vignettes are priceless!), at a gig, "bullshitting" or riding horses; there's a slideshow with a myriad of pictures of Warrant; and "The Delv-olution Of Delvis" explains how the Delvis creature adorning the *Born Again* CD and DVD came to life.

Born Again: D.V.D.—Delvis Video Diaries is guaranteed to please all Warrant fans. The music videos will have viewers singing along and the extras will have them laughing out loud! —Cheryl A. Hoahing