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Overdue reviews: Voivod - 'Tatsumaki' DVD

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Voivod triumphantly stormed Austin with [multiple SXSW appearances](#) last March, but it seems that some local fans missed it. If you count yourself among them, then [Tatsumaki - Voivod Japan 2008](#), should serve as an excellent consolation prize. After the devastating loss of founding guitarist Denis "Piggy" D'Amour, the Québécois quartet is back in force. This live DVD is definitive proof.

A lot has changed since Voivod originally reactivated in 2008. Aside from the notable return of original bassist Jean-Yves "Blacky" Thériault, Martyr's Dan Mongrain has stepped in on guitar, and the results are impressive. Mongrain captures Piggy's fractured fretwork with incredible fidelity, and he plays with a fervor that travels through the rest of the group like an electrical current. That's not to say that his bandmates don't pull their weight; on the contrary, Blacky, vocalist Snake, and drummer Away all play with a high degree of zeal and spirit. Between the excitement of being in Japan and the freshness of being reunited, it almost seems like they're a new band again. This energy is unmistakably captured on *Tatsumaki*, and it makes the already well-produced live recording all the more engrossing.



Voivod - Tatsumaki - Voivod Japan 2008 (MVD Visual)

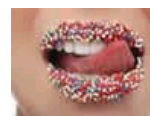
This DVD features a simple three-camera set up with smooth and unobtrusive transitions, which is actually a big bonus in a post-MTV world. The endless jumpy style of many current live videos is distracting and destroys the sense of actually being present at the show. Fortunately, Voivod's editors saw fit to let a stellar performance speak for itself. Additionally, the sound production avoids the sterility of most board recordings and offers a clear and agreeably heavy portrait of the songs. This set spans the length of the Voivod's career, and they give each song their very best. Highlights include "Overreaction", "Nuclear War", "Tornado", and of course their massive rendition of Pink Floyd's "Astronomy Domine".

Tatsumaki offers few bonus features like fun slide show of the band in Japan and an odd little meta-documentary about their reformation, but the main event is the concert itself. This release is something of a landmark considering the factors leading up to it. In any case it happened, and

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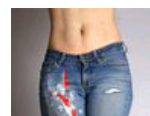
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