

METAL HELL DVD Reviews –
SEE YOU IN HELL

• **VOI VOD 'TATSUMAKI-Japan 2008'** (MVD) – A very live set from their first Japanese tour, shot in Tokyo in 2008 while on tour with Testament. This 12 song set covers mostly earlier songs with a no frills show with high energy & great musicianship. Opening with their namesake song as usual, into "The Prow", great to see Blacky's return on bass & the rhythm section of him & Away is a sight to behold, the new member, Dan does great justice to Piggy's inimitable writing & riffing while adding his own fluid soloing style. "The Unknown Knows", "Ravenous Medicine", "Overreaction", "Tribal Convictions" which got them their first MTV airplay, & from Killing Technology, "Tornado", into "Panorama", "Nuclear War", "Nothingface", "Brain Scan" & the typical closer, from Dimension Hatross, their phenomenal cover of Pink Floyd's "Astronomy Domine", which Voi Vod had its biggest hit with, *arguably*, since the word 'hit' doesn't really exist in their world. Extras include an informative interview with Dave Grohl, 3 songs from July, 2009 in Quebec City, a short documentary where the band speaks French Canadian-which is confusing. Overall an essential release that proves this monstrosity created something over 25 years ago that, *to this day* remains untouched musical ground of the most original kind.



SUICIDAL TENDENCIES 'LIVE AT THE OLYMPIC AUDITORIUM' (Suicidal Records) – This 75 minute set was taped in 2005, & captures the band in an inspired set for a special show, at a venue they played in '84/'85 before they were banned from playing LA, the band returned for this show, which was the final gig at this venue before it was turned into a Korean church! *Accordingly* Mike Muir & band are in rare form, making these 20+ year old songs sound better than ever. A *phenomenal* set that underlines what a great live band this is. The 16 song set focuses on early stuff. They play with tons of people standing behind them on stage, giving it an intimate underground skater punk vibe. The band maintains their no bullshit image. Timeless tunes like "I Shot Reagan", "War Inside My Head", & "Subliminal" are cornerstones of crossover, (seen in bands like Hatebreed), "Ain't Gonna Take It", "Suicidal Failure", "Send Me Your Money" (not listed), "We Are Family", "Possessed To Skate", "Waking The Dead", "Show Some Love... Tear It Down", "Cyclo Vision", "Two Sided Politics", "Won't Fall In Love Today", "Institutionalized" & "Pledge Your Allegiance", where more of the crowd comes on stage. This line-up pulls off the material well, Rocky George is *definitely* missed on guitar, but Dean Pleasants & Mike Clark have good chops & a loose early Suicidal chemistry to their playing, their initial 2 guitar interplay set ST apart from their peers: with solos under verses & funk & blues elements. Steve Bruner on bass has a good grasp of the punk metal & funk fused parts & Dave Hidalgo holds down the drum spot with a knack for locking in with the bass. A 6 minute interview with Mike Muir is included, where he talks about some of the things that come out in his stage raps.



STEVE VAI 'WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE' (LWH) – An *astounding* 27 song performance by Steve & his 6-piece band of top caliber musicians. Taking a cue from his mentor-Zappa, Vai takes the role of conductor & leads his ensemble through a myriad of dynamics & gives them room to shine with their own solos. Steve sings a bit, plays acoustic, & keeps things fresh with impromptu moments balanced with note for note melodies. From dueling violinists to Stevie's Alienistic shred with some lighthearted humor, these 2 DVD's are a journey into his musical world. Featuring; "Now We Run", "The Audience Is Listening" & "For The Love Of God".

• **'METAL RETARDATION'** (Bill Zebub Productions) – An 85 minute compilation of clips taken from several interviews for *The Grimoire*, some will recall seeing the un-cut interviews on the DVD, 'Metal Interviews', but there's footage from a handful which *weren't* on that one, including Leaves Eyes, Finntroll, Gwar, Turisas & Tyr. Gathering the most 'retarded' interview reactions & funny moments without any real sequence or order, (a perfect DVD to watch baked), compiled from a few of Bill's other DVD releases, with live clips of Turisas, King Diamond (House Of God tour) & Mercyful Fate. Extras include the audio from phone interviews with **Fenriz** (6 minutes) & **Cronos** (8 minutes), with a slide show of the Grimoire chicks for visuals, & a few minutes of outtakes/intros, in all, some funny shit, but not as essential or as funny as the full-length interviews. (thegrimoire.com)

