

Metal Retardation



Written by Sameerah

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The title Metal Retardation pretty much sums up Bill Zebub's film. Part documentary, part sketch show, Metal Retardation shows some pretty killer bands at both their best and their worst. Basically the whole thing is Bill running around back stage interviewing bands like King Diamond, Type O Negative, GWAR and a shite load of others, and when I say interview, I am saying it in the loosest sense of the word possible. Bill doesn't really ask questions of the folks involved, it's more like a constant barrage of booze induced free association. With most of it not having any real reason to it. If you have ever read Bill's zine The Grimoire of Exalted Deeds, you know the kinds of hijinks's Bill likes to get into.

It is fun to see some bands like Fintroll just wasted and shooting the shit. Spinning vodka fueled tales about abusing VJ's in Germany and inflicting bodily harm on one another. I am still not sure how to feel about Nevermore and Bill drunkenly begging some chick to show them her undies. The guys just sound drunk and lame, but that goes without saying when you see the number of booze bottles strewn around the bus. The girl however just looks freaked out and confused, like a hyper active cat. Yeah she knows she isn't in any real danger but the slightest move seems to make her jumpy. The more they beg the more I think that this has become a case study in how to develop a psychological disorder in a person. Which makes it funny as hell.

The film jumps from uncomfortable groupie girls to the always awesome but stoic Leaves Eyes. They smile and interact but you can tell by the looks on their faces they don't really know what to make of Bill. The biggest highlights are the bits with George of Cannibal Corpse and the live footage of Mercyful Fate at the end. George probably gets more screen time than anyone else and that may be because his reactions to Bill are more retarded than anyone else. It wasn't his answers that made his segments that made his segments so insane it's George himself. The dude has a neck like a fuckin bull and legs like tree trunks. As things rolled on I have come to the conclusion that George isn't a man but some sort of World of Warcraft beast come to life, or a genetically engineered mutant. Say what you will about how shitty the footage of Mercyful Fate is, that band fuckin brings it with unbridled fury. In the end, if you can't take a joke or are easily offended stay far away from Metal Retardation. If you have a good sense of humor and can take shit no matter how offensive or weird in stride then you will have a good time with this one. Have some booze and get fucking retarded.

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