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DVD Review: Pagan Metal: A Documentary

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DVD Review – Pagan Metal: A Documentary

Directed by Bill Zebub

Bill Zebub Productions/MVD

Director Bill Zebub who's brought us such hits as **Jesus Christ: Serial Rapist** and **The Worst Horror Movie Ever Made** is back with *Pagan Metal: a Documentary*. With interviews from top Pagan/Folk metal bands such as **Primordial**, **Finntroll**, **Korpiklaani**, **Ensiferum** and **Turisas** (to name a few), this documentary provides extensive information from the horse's mouth about a metal genre that's taken the world by storm since early 2000.

What's great about this documentary is the fact that Bill Zebub is willing to go beyond the regular, cliché type questions common to interviews and delve into more touchy subject matter. Questions about nationalism and cultural pride are definitely relevant, especially considering most Pagan/Folk metal bands are comprised solely of white Europeans. It's also interesting to hear a bit about a rivalry between countries; for instance when one of the members of Korpiklaani proclaims that the best, most diverse folk metal bands have come out of Finland while bands from other European countries, especially Germany, sound generic. While some of Bill Zebub's questions seem to be an attempt to draw out racist sentiments, most of the bands express an open-minded attitude. For instance Primordial front man Allan Averill and Turisas' Mathias Nygard give down-to-earth responses; explaining that their music is not solely about their own culture but include content which people of other cultures should be able to relate to.

The only real downside to this documentary is the duration. Rather than ask the important questions and call it a day with rich material and a healthy dose of live footage, there's a certain point mid-way where things really start to drag on. While Bill Zebub has some very intelligent questions at the beginning (many of which infused with humor), he sabotages his credibility with unnecessarily immature questions. For example, during his conversation with Alan Averill he becomes focused on racist notions of penis size and nationality. What's funny about this is despite his ridiculous questions, he's unable to faze the eloquent front man who responds without skipping a beat. Another example is his interview with Finntroll which he runs into the ground with an obsession over their drinking habits.

Despite the downsides, this DVD is still worth watching. Fans of Pagan/folk metal will most likely enjoy the in-depth interviews, while fans of Bill Zebub will no doubt appreciate the presence of his distinctive brand of humor.

billzebug.com

By [Alxs Ness](#)

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