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Various Artists - Pagan Metal: A Documentary DVD (MVD)

By: *Darren Cowan*

SEND TO A FRIEND:

[8.5/10]Renowned journalist and filmmaker, Bill Zebub brings us the first documentary about the cultural phenomenon known as pagan/folk metal. Most likely conducted during Pagan Fest's run through America, *Pagan Metal: A Documentary* includes interviews and live clips of today's leaders of this eclectic form of [music](#).

The majority of footage focuses on Finnish bands—the country boasting the biggest scene. Korpiklaani, Finntroll, Ensiferum and Turisas comprise the bands from Finland, while Primordial (Ireland), Tyr (Faroe Islands) and Leaves Eyes (Germany/Norway) round out the group. Leaves Eyes seems a bit misplaced. Even though they perform enchanting music of a pagan persuasion, the group doesn't present the same type of folk structure, rhythms and [instruments](#) as the other groups.

Zebub didn't use a large budget for this DVD. Some of the live clips suffer from bad sound and the [camera](#) angles aren't the best, but the numerous performances are still a pleasure, especially for those who can recall the energy conveyed by these bands. The interviews are lengthy and quite informative. Zebub covers much more than just the music these bands create, he also looks at the bands' social/political viewpoints, explores cultural myths (drinking!) and the history of folk music in metal.

While much of the mood is serious, sometimes Bill even asks some tough questions and has to throw in a little humor (nothing like his interviews in the *Grimoire of Exalted Deeds*, though). For instance, Bill Zebub asks Primordial's Naihmass Nemtheanga about the Irish Curse. Zebub explains that the Irish Curse has to do with Irishmen having small members. Zebub also makes the connection between the sound of Oompa-Loompas in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and the type of music Finntroll plays, humpya polka. Of course, as with most of Zebub's jokes, either the bands never get the joke or it takes them an exorbitant amount of time to comprehend.

The pagan/folk sound is one of the more colorful [styles](#) of metal. There are so many different ways to approach this type of music as a band or a fan. In *Pagan Metal: A Documentary*, Bill Zebub uses a variety of questions to compile a ton of

information. He also lets each group's performance speak for itself. Leaves Eyes seemed out of place and the [concert](#) clips were sometimes poor, but over all *Pagan Metal: A Documentary* is an essential [film](#) for fans of this form of music.

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