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VCP00434

## Pagan Metal DVD

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By [Chad Bowar](#), About.com Guide

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The past decade or so has seen a big increase in the number and popularity of bands in the folk/pagan/viking metal genre. There's a wide variety of styles within the genre, from the good time drinking metal of Korpiklaani to the darker vibe of groups like Primordial. Bill Zebub's documentary *Pagan Metal* showcases several different bands in the genre.

The two hour film combines sit down interviews with bands and band members and live performances. If you're not familiar with Zebub's work, he likes to ask unusual and sometimes downright goofy questions along with the standard interview fare. The bands roll with the punches, with some obviously understanding Zebub's angle and others seemingly oblivious.

*Pagan Metal* is not meant to be a history of the genre. It's a snapshot of several different groups, with each contributing to the understanding of the bands themselves and their music. Members of Korpiklaani, Tyr, Ensiferum, Primordial, Finntroll, Leaves Eyes and Turisas are interviewed, and their bands showcased in live performances.



Pagan Metal  
MVD Visual

To me, the most entertaining interview was Alan from Primordial. Zebub kept peppering him with questions about the Irish, and no matter how off the wall the question was, Alan would give a look and then give an answer, which may or may not directly address the question.

The performance footage is used between interview clips, and does a nice job familiarizing the viewer with each band's sound. The clips are brief, and the sound quality isn't always the best, but you get the basic vibe of each band. *Pagan Metal* is an entertaining and informative look into an increasingly popular genre that fans of the individual bands and folk/pagan metal in general will enjoy.

(released December 8, 2009 by MVD Visual)

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