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# K Linkin Park: Coup d'Etat

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When the term "nu metal" came along in the mid-90's, there was no telling how long some of the bands associated with it would last. Some true metal fans could never accept it as being a legitimate form of metal, others saw this as just another grunge craze that would be around for a few years and then go away, but there are still bands that fit in to the nu metal label, though most don't like the term, that have been doing quite well since they first broke big on the screen. Linkin Park would be one of the many that would rise to the top and their debut album Hybrid Theory, released in 2000, was merely the beginning.

Lime many bands that manage to overcome nearly impossible odds in the music industry, their success is going to lead to some wanting to get a bit more information out on the band. This has led to a surge of unauthorized documentaries being released, some good, others far from it, and now Linkin Park are the subject of such a documentary or two. *Coup d'Etat* is a look at the band though since this is an unauthorized released, don't expect any music from the band to be included or exclusive interviews as there are none to be found.

*Coup d'Etat* is a two-disc release consisting of two different documentaries, the first of these isn't titled save for slashing the Linkin Park logo across the screen at one point. If you remember the VH1 series *Behind the Music*, which is coming back very soon, then what you should know is that this is the opposite side of the spectrum. The documentary, if you want to call it that, is a random collection of photos of the band probably collected from magazines and website narrated in a horrible fashion. There is nothing of merit to be found here and any of the scripted "details" are things that are going to be common knowledge to just about every Linkin Park fan. Occasionally there are interviews but the creators of this piece have failed miserably even in this aspect. Names are given, but as to who they are, that's never really addressed. There are a few people who have worked with the band or know them personally, but most of the interviews are more fans talking about why they

like the band and why they think they have managed to reach the status that they have.

Great; 45-minutes worth of fan rants. If that's what you were looking for, you'll get plenty of it, but the reality is that you can simply do a bit of web surfing and find the exact same thing, though probably with a lot of misspellings and numbers added in place of letters. The camera work in the documentary is horrible, my favorite part being an interview where the camera slowly begins to tilt down and is soon corrected. I wasn't positive if the cameraman was trying to get a short of the woman's breasts (and I really hope that wasn't the case) of it this was just a case of shoddy camerawork. The audio is horrible, the narrator just doesn't fit with the genre, and the overall picture quality is horrendous. Even trying to upscale it in a blu-ray player resulted in a worse picture, the type that made me just want to switch it off and watch standard cable on an HD set, and some of you know how awful that is.

The second documentary entitled *Conspiracy Theory* feels much more like a documentary should. There people in the interviews actually have worked with the band in some degree, most of them in the early days of the band, have been involved in other musical projects with them, or are friends with them on some level. There are actually titles associated with names so you'll know that one person might play in a certain band, another is involved as a media critic or works in radio, all things that are incredibly relevant instead of just wondering who in the heck these people are. There is a lot more information here than what is found in the first documentary and it does come across as being an amateurish production. There are even portions of interviews with the band, though I'm sure they weren't done for the documentary, but it's much more than what you'll find on the other disc.

There isn't too much as far as extra material is concerned. There is a trivia quiz, but fans should have little trouble acing it. I enjoy the band, though I wouldn't say I'm a die-hard fanatic like others are, and I still managed to get 14 out of 15 questions correct. Also included is a discography which is just a text write up of the bands full length CD's, their singles, soundtracks they have appeared on and even bootlegs, but this was compiled and obviously completed before the bands latest release.

The lesson learned here, at least in this case, is that releases like this are often unauthorized for a very good reason. *Conspiracy Theory* is really the only part of this that is worth watching, though I think that much of the information contained in it fans are going to know, but there are still a few things that might comes as a surprise. *Coup d'Etat* is one of those releases that's evenly split down the middle as far as how informational it is and this is one that's really aimed more at the true fans of Linkin Park than the casual listener.

-mike

Written by: Neil Sheppard and Marianne Deady DVD Features: Audio: 1.33:1 Audio: English Dolby Digital 5.1 Narration by: Tom Clarke-Hill Linkin Park Trivia

**Conspiracy Theory (2004)** Directed by: Collina Greenwell

Narrated by: Sian Jones

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