



# Death + Taxes

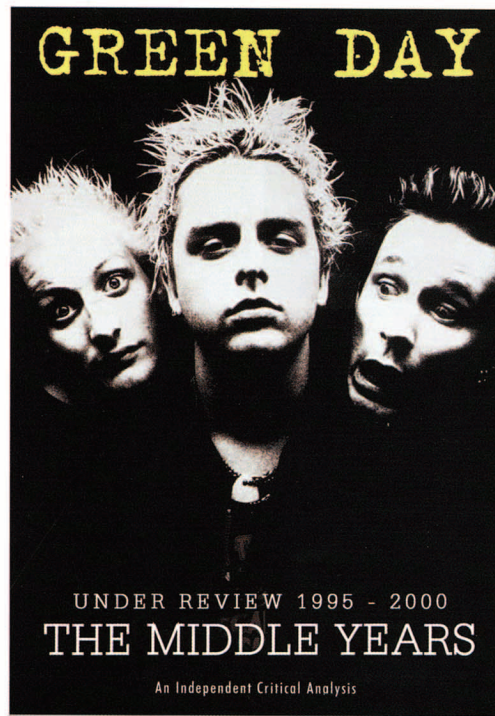
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issue

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

## Green Day

The Middle Years  
MVD

This DVD isn't terribly entertaining or always factually correct, but I can't blame the producers because they're British. Also, I think *The Middle Years* is an import, and might be kind of hard to find in the States except online. Still, the subject matter was worth making a documentary about.



punk horseshit, which alienated listeners and revealed the embarrassment the trio felt as rock stars. And I loved *Nimrod*, but in retrospect it seems self-indulgent and too long: the Vietnam of Green Day's career.

Then there's *Warning*.

*Warning* didn't sell well and received poor reviews, but I always thought it was a bit of a fuck you. In 2000, Blink-182's version of *Dookie* ruled the airwaves alongside nu-metal (stick it up yer what!), while New Found Glory, Good Charlotte, Saves the Day and other pop-punk acolytes began their ascent to something. So Green Day stripped things down, wrote semi-socially conscious songs, and made music, according to Tre Cool, "made you want to pour beer all over yourself at Denny's." If anything, *Warning* foreshadowed what was to come four years later when Green Day kicked up the gain, and Billie Joe lost some weight and stopped looking like Beetlejuice.

As far as the DVD's commentary goes, most of the dudes are British journalists who take rock music way too seriously. The upside of the documentary comes from the commentary by Lookout! Records founder Larry Livermore and Blatz vocalist Jesse Dangerous, which makes it worth some of the DVD's more tedious segments. **SB**

**Green Day's Reprise middle years** often don't come up in the press. *Insomniac*, *Nimrod* and *Warning* usually get glossed over in a paragraph or two; a 9-year, 44-song period treated like a post-it.

It's reasonable: The massive success of *Dookie* spurred nine years of decline in the band's mainstream popularity, despite big singles like "Minority," "Geek Stink Breath," and "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)." Still, they kept a devoted fan base that ensured sold-out tours and millions of records sold. (Just not millions upon millions like *Dookie* and *American Idiot*.)

It would have been a great period in any other band's career, although mediocre for Green Day. *Insomniac* has classic songs, but it echoed *In Utero*'s lets-show-everyone-we're-still-

**"made you want to pour beer all over yourself at Denny's."**