

## REVIEW SCALE

5 – The album is excellent, it could also be considered perfect or near perfect. There may be a few glitches or setbacks, but they are not detrimental.

4 – The album is very good. There aren't too many glitches or setbacks but the ones that are present keep the album from being excellent.

3 – The album is mediocre. While the album is alright, there isn't anything that makes it stand out above other albums. Some of it is good, and some of it needs work.

2 – The album is bad. Many things have gone wrong, and unless it happens to be within your personal favorite genre, chances are it's not even worth your time. The band has a lot to work on.

1 – The album is terrible. The album isn't worth your time, no exceptions.

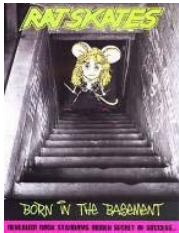
Note: Be aware that in November 2004 the grading scale was revised to how it is shown above in order to maintain more consistencies between our reviewers. Many of the reviews in our Archive may include ½ marks and ¼ marks and please be aware that the ratings at that time were also more open to our reviewers' interpretations of the rating scale, as opposed to this now absolute grading scale which our reviewers are responsible to follow in their rating procedures.

## REVIEWS

**Rat Skates - Born in the Basement (DVD)** - added - November 28th, 2007

Reviewer: **Ruben Mosqueda**

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Back in the late 80's, there was this VHS tape that I bought called *How to Break into Heavy Metal without Getting Screwed*. *Born in the Basement* would compliment that release quite nicely. Rat Skates was the original drummer and the founding member of the band Overkill. I personally had no idea how instrumental Rat was in the band's success, but in a sense, Rat was the brains of the operation, the heart and soul of the band as they followed their dream. At first, *Born in the Basement* starts off slow as it gives the viewer a quick yet all too familiar lesson in metal 101. Luckily, after that short detour, we dive right into the history of Overkill through the eyes of Rat Skates. Rat talks openly about the ups and downs of trying to break a band and offer an original product that will stand above the rest, right from the stage show to the logo to the merchandising and to the metal music that drove this Jersey wrecking crew from the early days all the way until the present (post Rat Skates). I didn't know the back story of why Rat left the band, but this DVD allows Rat to shed some light on that matter. This a great documentary that will sort out those that "think " they can make a go at the music business and those that "know" they can. It's a humbling story. While very low budget, if you can get past its public access appearance, you'll sink right into the meat of this DVD. It's self-produced much like Rat's work with Overkill. Even if you opt out of the music business after watching the DVD, you'll at least be able to help your friends with two different uses for milk crates . . .

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