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# METAL DREAMS

PAUL DI'ANNO - *The Beast In The East*

Music Video Distributors



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Category: Heavy Metal

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Label URL: [www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com)

Artist URL: [www.pauldianno.com](http://www.pauldianno.com)

With his name plastered on the cover of this concert DVD you'd expect one-time Iron Maiden vocalist Paul Di'Anno to be the star of the show. Oddly enough, the opposite is true. A band of completely unknown musicians play so tight that you could close your eyes and think their performance was by the original Maiden or Killers members. It's not that Paul Di'Anno is unlistenable, but his voice is gruff and devoid of almost any range. You almost have to feel for poor Paul though because he's been living in the shadow of Iron Maiden every since he recorded the first two albums with the band. But many critics and fans adore those early efforts and to this day most of Di'Anno's setlist is comprised of Maiden classics - "Killers," "Wrathchild," "Remember Tomorrow" and "Running Free." The band does play an assortment of material from Dianno's solo material with the focus from the Killers' (the band) outstanding *Murder One* disc. Unfortunately, it's these tracks ("Marshall Lockjaw," "The Beast Arises" and "Impaler") that Di'Anno's voice reveals it greatest limitations. Instead of hitting the notes as they were originally recorded, he chooses to belch guttural screams in an almost death metal style. Comparing the

live performance to the studio album is almost jarring. But don't let some average sounding vocals take away the superlative effort from the band. Recorded in an impressive Dolby 5.1 surround sound, the chops of the musicians will surely blow you away. The Iron Maiden tunes were spot on and both guitarists impressed the hell out of me on every song.

The professional filming of the live performance was good but not outstanding. Some of the shots were a little grainy and washed out, whereas others looked terrific. This leads me to believe it was done for effect. The producer also used a series of quick film edits and depending on your preference, this may or may not bother you as you try to focus in on the action. The band looks good with the exception of Di'Anno. I know he's not exactly a youngster but being bald, overweight and full of tattoos is not that becoming on him. At least the rest of the band looked and dressed cool.

Fans of the band will appreciate the DVD extras like a rare informative interview with Di'Anno and some cool bootleg footage at other venues in Norway and Poland. The sound of these shows is mostly mediocre but it was a nice bonus for the fans. Also included are three new audio tracks, which were surprisingly mellow and melodic. Their inclusion seemed like a waste considering the target audience of this DVD. With songs like these, it's no wonder Di'Anno is still playing shows with material that's over 20 years old.

**The Bloody Truth:** It may appear that I didn't like the live concert because of his Paul's voice, but that would be slightly misleading. The band is phenomenal and the setlist is pure bliss for any metalhead that appreciates early Iron Maiden and the direct metal sound of Killers' ***Murder One***. Fans of Iron Maiden, Killers or 80s style heavy metal will surely want to add this DVD to their collection.