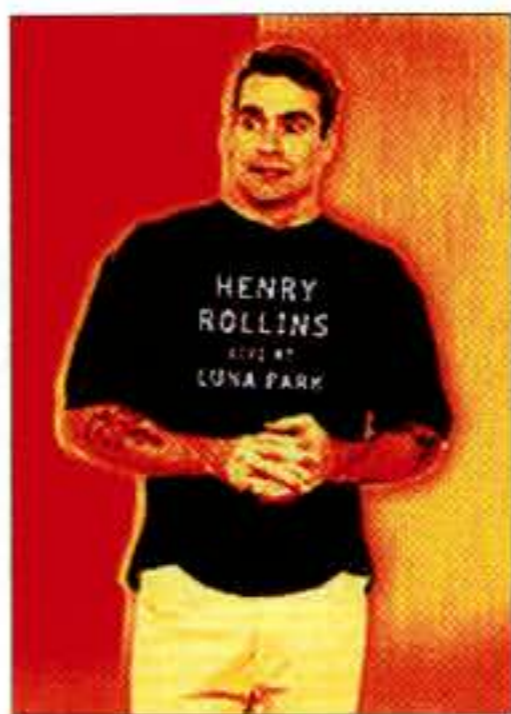
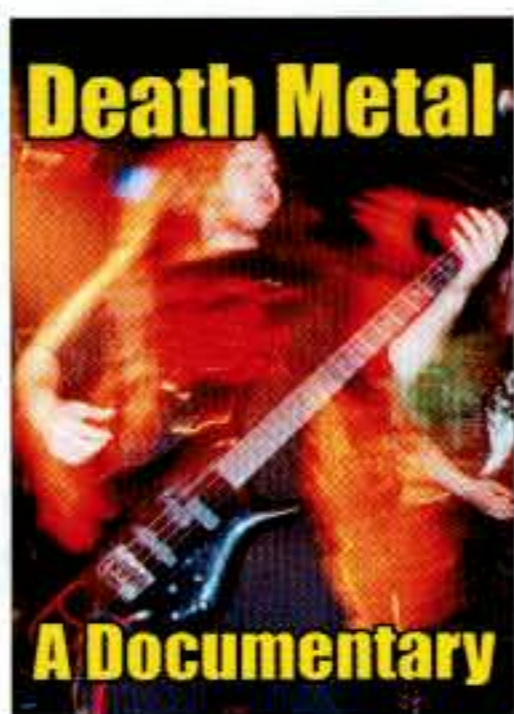
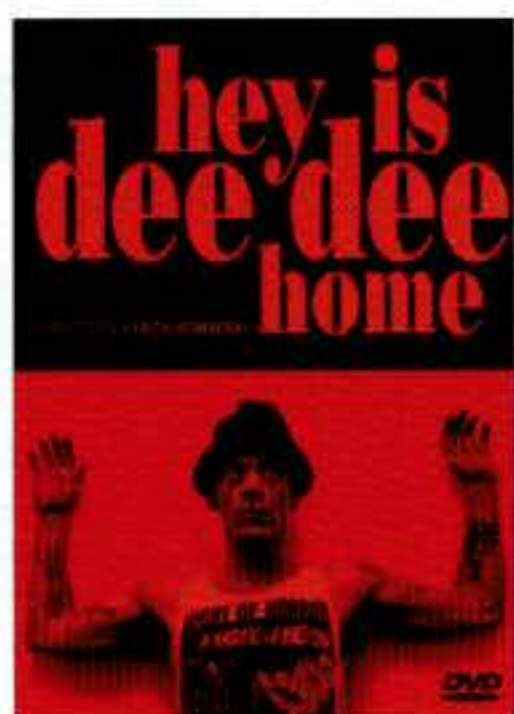


DVD REVIEWS



Death Metal: A Documentary (Bill Zebub Productions)- *Roger And Me* it ain't. Despite the documentary's lack of professional filming, cohesive editing, and adequate packaging, it has heart—a heart violently ripped from the carcass of what was once a beautiful and scantily clad woman screaming in abject horror—but heart all the same. Through a series of poorly edited interviews, we gaze into the lives, thoughts, and empty pockets of veteran death metal bands such as Immolation, Suffocation, and Mortician. They enthusiastically discuss everything from bootlegging, the musical and lyrical validity of death metal, and violence at shows, to the struggles of staying financially afloat while maintaining a band. Veteran metalhead Dan Lilker of Nuclear Assault, and formerly of Anthrax and Brutal Truth (listed in the film as Brutal Ruth) makes a few appearances; one where he helps define the characteristics of death metal, and one where he uses the word "burpy" in a sentence illustrating different types of death growls. The documentary's highlights are the brief interviews with Type O Negative's Peter Steele, formerly of Carnivore, whose sarcastic wit and potty humor keep you entertained and chuckling shamefully, with quips such as, "Later on I will show you my underwear," and "It was like an extension of my uterus— I mean, penis." This documentary does not take itself too seriously; it has no lofty goals other than to show the love and loyalty the filmmaker and bands have for their music. Definitely worth a watch if death metal is your choice jam. **Evan Fields**

The Black Heart Procession "The Tropics of Love" (Touch & Go)- A lot of twisted things happen by the end of *The Tropics of Love*. Regardless of what inspired it, this CD/DVD package completely works. Though there is no dialogue, you are immediately drawn into the drowsy plot of the story. Scene after scene of languid, sanguine, gushy sentiments of love

ooze throughout the psychotic images of a sordid murder mystery that takes place in Black Palm, FL. Everything is set to strange, distant, and ultimately very pleasant music, provided by The Black Heart Procession. Blown-out colors and woozy camera shots add to the surreal nature of the music. The real focus of *TOL* is the music, which has an unusual pop sensibility under it all, but also drifts widely between brooding at the most intense moments to excited, strange, and carnival-esque, in the rest. This DVD can be played under any circumstance. If you don't feel like looking at the screen, that's fine, don't. If you feel like going through reincarnation, do. **Cyrus Shahmir**

Henry Rollins "Live In Luna Park" (Koch)- This DVD harvests the best of Rollins' weekly spoken word performances at Luna Park in Hollywood and each storytelling session featuring completely original material. Highlights include facing muscle-bound Texans while wearing makeup from a movie shoot, deviously poking fun at broken English fan mail, and his suppressed, yet unfulfilled, lifelong goal of blowing away Iggy Pop on stage. Especially hilarious is Rollins' recount of his high school jobs at an ice cream shop and a pet store. He glorifies his friend and co-worker, Ian [Mackaye], for his idea to dress up as human sundaes and offer pink rat poison pellets to customers as an available topping (all while keeping a straight face). At the pet shop (a present-day Italian restaurant), Henry and Ian competitively flung dead fish with a flexible net behind a radiator. When the duo finally decided to dine at the restaurant years later, conversations with the furious owner revealed the extensive damage caused by decay from the pet shop contests years earlier. Rollins' storytelling reveals a sensitive and humorous side, while maintaining his trademarked intensity that is constant through all his material. The audience also

seemed responsive to Rollins' perspective on his life's hilarious tales, although they were loosened up by drinking more chardonnays and martinis than all Black Flag and Rollins Band events combined. **Adam Lindenbaum**

Hey, Is Dee Dee Home (Extinkt)- While interviewing burned out rockers for his documentary on Johnny Thunders, *Born To Lose: The Last Rock'n'Roll Movie*, director Lech Kowalski got so many juicy quotes and stories from the late, great Dee Dee Ramone that he just *had* to release it on its own. So here he is, good ol' Dee Dee circa 1992, in all his tattooed and ripped denim glory, relating first-hand accounts of all of his now legendary dope-copping stories with Johnny Thunders. The movie doesn't go into much biographical detail about Dee Dee's life and times, but instead focuses on the myth and legend surrounding the writing of the song "Chinese Rocks." Dee Dee claims to have written it with some minimal help from Richard Hell, but over the years, Thunders, Walter Lure, Joey Ramone, and Johnny Ramone all gave themselves writing credits on their respective versions (Dee Dee: "I guess that's why I left him turning blue in the bathtub.") Dee Dee is in fine form, proudly sitting on a stool, enthusiastically explaining the meaning of his many tattoos. "Getting tattoos is like shootin' dope!" he says in his signature sniffed-too-much-glue-as-a-kid-in-Queens accent. Extras include a live version of "Chinese Rocks" by an inebriated Johnny Thunders And The Heartbreakers, a poster, and a sheet of temporary Dee Dee tattoos, complete with a scorpion, Jesus on the cross, and a crown bearing the words "Dee Dee King!" This is a riveting and informative movie for all Ramones/Thunders enthusiasts, but anyone else might get a bit depressed. Let's face it, an aging, scrawny Dee Dee Ramone is no George Clooney. **The Turk**