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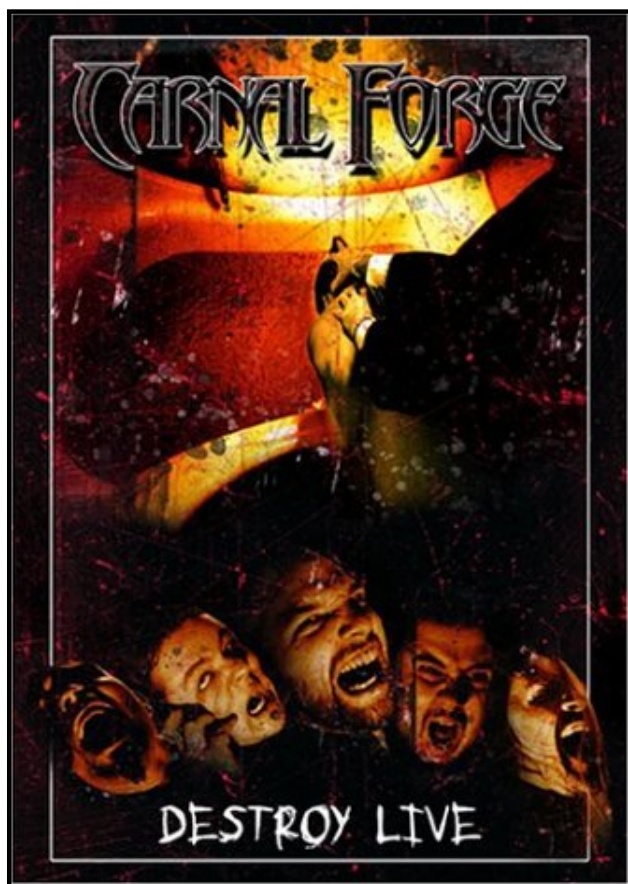
DVD REVIEW

CARNAL FORGE DESTROY LIVE

by Mick Head

The Swedish juggernaut known as Carnal Forge has been consistently belting out brutal thrash metal since 1997. Consistency is a good thing, for the most part, except it doesn't leave a lot of room for diversity and experimentation.

Recorded in Poland, part one of this DVD is a 22 song bludgeoning thrash metal attack. Culling material from all its releases, the quintet kicks it out for more than an hour. The band is tight, the light show is good and the camerawork is professional. From the first song to last, this band's approach to its style is just relentless. About halfway into the



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show, however, one realizes that the songs start running together, all sounding very similar to one another.

This is where the consistency thing comes in. The band is quite happy doing its thing. And this concert is a purist's dream: thrash metal played at break neck speed throughout the entire show. These guys never let up; riff after riff, breakdown after breakdown, an uncompromising aural assault. Unfortunately, the songs all sound the same. But, it seems this is what the band is going for.

As for the band, the members don't move around too much, even though they are on quite a large stage: Krakow's Krzemionki Studio TVP. Actually, the two guitarists are also quite large and just seem to be into their instruments, with a little head banging. The singer basically stands front and center, and never moves. His vocals leave something to be desired, as he just screams every lyric and even his stage banter is screamed, making it somewhat unintelligible. The drummer is the real star of the show, as the man is a power house of annihilating rhythm.

One strange thing about the Krakow show is that out of what looks like 200-300 people in attendance, only about 50 of them clap or yell in between the songs. Maybe it's just the mixing.

Part two of the DVD is a show from Tokyo, 2003. It features the band in a very small club on a hand held camera. The music is obviously overdubbed, unless Japan's sound quality is that good in a bar, which is doubtful. Part three is a show from the Metal Gods tour in New York, 2003. Again, in a club on a hand held camera, no overdubs, just the raw sound. Both of these shows feature the same songs as Krakow, and don't seem very necessary and are only necessary for the diehards. The DVD also features an in depth interview with the band.

All in all, Carnal Forge knows its style extremely well and plays it with talent. The group has presented an accurate representation of themselves live, at least with Krakow show.

- **OMG**