



METALLICA: SOME KIND OF MONSTER

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(Directed by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky)

Timing is everything. Documentary filmmakers Berlinger and Sinofsky admit that if they had shot this earlier, it may not have turned out the way it did. Luckily they decided on 2001 to begin filming because their film is a riveting look at the "world's biggest rock band" on the brink of destruction. Starting from day one of *St. Anger's* recording sessions, *SKOM* follows every moment of the two-year process. The footage delves deep, dealing with James Hetfield's stint in rehab, interview-

ing former bassist Jason Newsted, finding his replacement Rob Trujillo, and most of all, an intimate encounter between Lars and Dave Mustaine. The filmmakers have provided some awesome bonus material. Additional scenes are plentiful, serving up some great moments, like the band's inability to log into their website's chat room, a small secret club gig and Kirk Hammett's Hawaiian-themed birthday party. The filmmakers' commentary is far more interesting than the band's, which is rather droll and disappointing. Plus: music video, filmmaker bios, more. (Third Eye/Paramount)
Cam Lindsay

IRON MAIDEN

The History Of Part 1: The Early Days

If there's one thing Iron Maiden has learned to do right it is to give their fans what they want. This two-disc set chronicles the band's first four albums through filmed performances, music videos, television specials and an exhaustive 2004 documentary. This really is every Maiden fan's dream come true and is also a great place for the curious to learn the history of one of the best metal bands. (EMI)
Sean Palmerston

CHARLES MINGUS

Live At Montreux 1975

At the time of this performance, Charles Mingus fronted one of his strongest small bands (George Adams, Jack Walrath, Danny Richmond and Don Pullen) on a tour through four originals, as well as including Gerry Mulligan and Benny Bailey for a rousing blow-out on Duke's "Take the 'A' Train." The camera work is tight and imaginative, the editing is crisp and the sound is great. The one downside is that George Adams' sax is down in the mix for the first half. Classic Mingus translated with joy and integrity onto video. (Eagle Rock, www.eaglerockent.com)
Nilan Perera

THE RESIDENTS

Commercial DVD

It's been 25 years since the release of the Residents' *Commercial Album*, which was their attempt to capture the essence of popular music with 40 one-minute songs. This DVD collection compiles the original four one-minute movies with ten new videos created by the Residents, alongside mini-movies made by over 30 artists of varying disciplines. Wonderfully experimental, the movies capture the spirit of

the album, which is whimsical, playful, perplexing and disturbing. Not unlike the band. (The Cryptic Corporation/Mute)
Matthew Daley

STONES THROW 101

Sure you finally get to watch the Stones Throw videos you've never seen on MuchMusic, but given the history and potential you can't help but be a little disappointed with the lack of extras. The best footage comes from Charizma, as the late, great MC shines in "Red Light Green Light," which was pieced together from old videotapes Peanut Butter Wolf found in his closet, as well as a 1992 TV appearance. Just watching the host give props in a San Jose Sharks jersey makes you wish for that golden age again. Egon's mission to track down LA Carnival, one of many lost funk bands Stones Throw has reintroduced, is also vital viewing. Still, there could have been so much more, especially given the fact this is their 101st release. (Stones Throw/Koch)
Noel Dix

VADER

Night of the Apocalypse

Another great DVD from Metal Mind, featuring reigning Polish death/thrash metal kings Vader. Comprised of one full and two shorter sets, this looks and sounds great. As with all Metal Mind productions, there are seemingly thousands of people in attendance — got to love Poland! And Vader smokes live; their perfect, memorable songs coming through flawlessly. Also included are interviews that are interesting, showing the band as polite, quiet types, a discography and biography, photo gallery, and more. (Metal Mind, www.metalopolis.pl)
Greg Pratt