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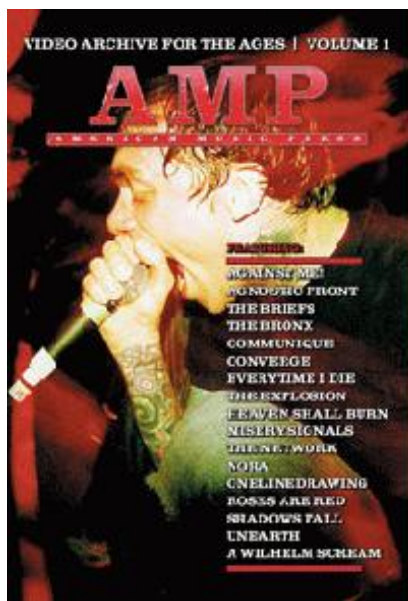
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>VIDEO ARCHIVE FOR THE AGES - VOL. 1, AMP MAGAZINE

brad amorosino | 04.27.2005



CD compilations are good for two reasons: either they introduce you to some new music, or they compile a lot of good music you're already familiar with onto one recording. Unfortunately, a lot of the time compilations don't receive much attention. The artwork is usually bland and generic, the bands are too obscure, and as a whole the product has a dispensable quality to it. If you don't like the bands, the comp is garbage. If you do like the bands, you'll probably buy their records and then have no use for the comp. At that point the comp has served its purpose. But it still gets trashed.

The DVD format of the AMP comp solves this problem. The visual component of the compilation adds a distinct texture to these bands whether or not you are already familiar with their music. There are seventeen videos from seventeen bands, mostly reputable big name acts (Converge, Against Me!, Shadows Fall...). The roster is impressive, though it leans more towards the aggressive side of independent music. While ranging in genre from indie to metal, most of the bands are hardcore or metal, with a handful of more straight forward punk bands and a few indie acts. As a whole though, most of the videos are well done and interesting. Some of them are cut from live shows where you can see the bands, their audience, and how they interact. The Against Me! video shows the band playing an energetic set in a packed room, while sprawling on the stage, tripping over each other. Other videos are more filmic and offer an artistic interpretation of the music. This is especially interesting for a band like Converge, whose vocals are an indecipherable scream. Their video helps to illustrate the song as an angry and desperate retort to a life sucking corporate lifestyle.

My favorite video, would have to be the one from A Wilhelm Scream. The band is attempting to play at a small club full of angry drunkards. Throughout the song, the band is pelted with debris from the crowd. One of the members even gets a beer bottle smashed in his face while the singer pushes away a random girl that hopped on stage to kiss him. Not all of the videos are as

inventive or engaging, but this video archive is both an excellent introduction to new music and an interesting supplement to your favorite artists' discography, especially for those of us that don't have the super duper 2000 channel digital cable subscription. We don't get to see too many music videos for punk bands, so a comp like this holds a certain allure for any avid fan of underground music.

UNDER THE SCOPE

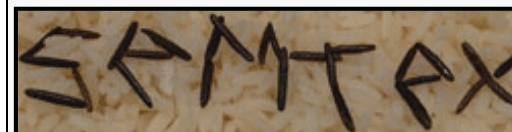
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