

**NOW PLAYING
DVD**

**DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS: DIRTY SOUTH:
LIVE AT THE 40 WATT (New West)**



The liner notes to the Drive-By Truckers' recent DVD release, *Dirty South: Live at the 40 Watt*, contain a brief statement from guitarist/songwriter Jason Isbell, who notes "This DVD represents where the Drive-By

Truckers were, in every sense of the word, on August 27th and 28th of 2004. We're somewhere else now. Hell will once again be raised." When the band tore through St. Louis last month, hell was raised indeed, and the DVD release comes at a perfect time. Fans hooked on the band's epic live performances finally have frequent, convenient access to America's greatest touring rock band, and the footage doesn't disappoint.

On August 27 and 28 of 2004, Drive-By Truckers were hosting a CD release party for the eagerly anticipated (now critically acclaimed) release *The Dirty South*, and as a result, just about all of the album is covered on the DVD. *The Dirty South* is an epic album, and although "The Southern Thing," "Women Without Whiskey," and "Get on the Plane" are the only tunes from 2001's *The Southern Rock Opera* included in the 22-song set, longtime fans shouldn't be disappointed by the lack of older material. There's only room for so much, and the Truckers clearly wanted this DVD to

showcase their newest material and support *The Dirty South*.

The DVD features excellent camera work, and the editing avoids the rapid-fire scene shifting that can ruin an otherwise good concert video. The "bonus features" segment is simply a nice music video for "Never Gonna Change," featuring some good live concert shots and interesting camera work. Interviews and backstage footage were spliced between songs during the main program, however, so there's more to the DVD than the performance alone.

Throughout the DVD, the band showcases its trademark blend of cerebral, heartfelt songwriting and raucous three-guitar fury. "Where the Devil Don't Stay" and "Lookout Mountain" rock hard and loud, while "Tornadoes" and "Goddamn Lonely Love" showcase the band's songwriting talent, which has only gotten better with the addition of Isbell in 2003. At the start of the encore, Isbell's songwriting ability receives the ultimate validation: The crowd joins in for a spirited sing-along of the chorus to "Outfit," and during the verses the camera pans to show audience members mouthing every word.

Other highlights include "The Southern Thing," which illustrates the emphasis the band places on history and storytelling, "Decoration Day," and "Puttin People on the Moon," which guitarist/songwriter Patterson Hood delivers with a vengeance. During the song's frenzied outro, Hood exhibits just how much emotion he's poured into the songwriting, which paints a vivid picture of frustration and economic strife in the Deep South. The

DVD captures Drive-By Truckers at its finest, and it's a must-own not only for longtime fans, but for those who want to learn more about the band. | **Andrew Scavotto**

**AMP MAGAZINE: VIDEO ARCHIVE FOR THE AGES:
VOLUME 1 (Music Video Distributors)**

Call them collectors. Call them whatever you want, because chances are you're one, too. You are among the collective of people who irrationally have to own every single piece of recorded media from one single artist, and that sure as hell includes VHS. Back in the day, there was a monthly VHS tape called *Music Video Monthly*. On said videotape were roughly ten new music videos from whomever the folks behind MVM found worthy (or, more likely, whatever label paid the monthly slotting fee to get on the tape). To get to the point, on their "Rock" edition, you would get a wide array of artists who rarely had nothing in common with each other. That meant that you would be lucky if you even found a couple of bands that struck a nerve. Not exactly a recipe for success.

With *Video Archive for the Ages*, AMP Magazine has done it the right way. You will not find a cornucopia of genres on these discs, only punk, emo, and metal. This specific volume includes videos from The Bronx, Agnostic Front, The Explosion, Shadows Fall, The Start, and 13 others that, for the most part, could easily share the same bill—which is exactly the point. Listed at \$7.95 retail, this disc is very well worth your dollar, if you're a collector or are simply searching for that undiscovered gem. | **David Lichius**

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