

Sound and Vision

Wading through the flood of music DVDs

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Published September 21, 2005

As digital video technology gets increasingly easier and less expensive, more and more elements of the music industry are employing the DVD format as both promotion and product. It's not just the major labels these days - everyone from unsigned bands to package-tour promoters to longtime fans with tons of archival footage on their hands is investing in releases that marry the music to images and an almost unlimited potential for "special features" (read: superfluous crap).

MURDER CITY DEVILS – The End

Music Video Distributors

The Gist: The beloved Seattle noir-rock sextet celebrates its own demise with a suitably timed and chaotic hometown show on Halloween 2001. Recorded, shot and edited with above-average skill, this lengthy, loose, mayhem-heavy show comes across much more viscerally here than it does in the form of the '03 posthumous live album R.I.P.; the quick editing matches the onstage madness, and makes you wish you'd been there.

The Extras: Four sound-quality-impaired performances culled from bootlegs; a photo gallery; a trailer for the MCD documentary Rock and Roll Won't Wait; and a funny and informative commentary track from singer Spencer Moody and band associate Merchbot 2000.

The Verdict: It proves that things don't have to be shoddily done to be rock 'n' roll. Pick it up. (www.musicvideodistributors.com)