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Various Artists

Metalmania 2004 (CD + DVD)

Music Video Distributors / Metal Mind Productions

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Wow, while their were moments on "Metalmania 2003" that certainly caught my attention, "Metalmania 2004" is like an extreme metal fans dream! The festival, and the DVD that documented it, features live performances by Krisiun, Enslaved, MSG, Tiamat, Moonspell, Soulfly, TSA, Trauma, and Esqarial featuring Grzegorz Kupczyk.. All on one stage! Tiamat's "The Sleeping Beauty" even combines bands as Moonspell's Fernando Ribeir joins them for the song.

As with last years DVD, the production quality here is very good, both with the audio and with the video and that makes for a much more enjoyable experience than a lot of metal DVDs that have passed through our offices this year. While Enslaved turn in an excellent performance, it's truly the lats two featured bands, Moonspell and Soulfly, who come out smelling like roses. I'm not a very big Soulfly fan but when they play "Jumpdafuckup/Bring it" you can't help but dig it.

The CD portion is unfortunately a little weaker. The quality is good and the bands are decent but they largely sound the same, boasting very little diversity over the thirteen tracks offered. There are a few standout names though that will at least get your attention enough to convince you to pop the CD in (Immemorial, Devilyn, and Asgaard). Once it's in there are some bright moments including Immemorial and The Chainsaw.

This DVD is so totally worth any metal fans money that it would be crazy not to pick it up. "Metalmania 2004" chock full of bands that U.S. fans see very little of, if we have ever seen them at all and you can't beat the quality. Don't miss out on this one.

Key Tracks: n/a

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

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