



The Residents - *The Residents Play Wormwood: Curious Stories From The Bible* (DVD, Euro Ralph / Cryptic Corporation / [Music Video Distributors](#))

We always rave about **The Residents** and for good reason. The band is one of the most uniquely creative projects ever established in the music community. *The Residents Play Wormwood* is a concert that was taped on July 16, 1999 in Bonn, Germany (originally aired as a web cast for *Museumsmeile*). Seeing The Residents recreate scenes from *The Bible* is, of course, an unusual experience. The band sheds light on the fact that the "good book" is, in actuality, a very, very *bad book* at times with some very horrifying and violent stories. Rather than making fun of religion, the concert considers The Bible from a different...and almost purely non-judgmental...perspective. This particular show utilizes a mind-blowing amount of fluorescent paint, black lights, and fanciful costumes...and, as usual, features the highest level of musical expertise. While this is a meticulously prepared taping of The Residents in concert, *Wormwood* was never our favorite album...and neither is this our favorite concert by the band. The skull speeches occur too often and are too long. The concert is a very slow moving affair and also a very serious endeavor. Almost entirely missing from the show is the band's crazy and irreverent sense of humor. We kept wondering where the vocal microphones were until we finally came to the conclusion that they were nestled inside the birdlike beak masks. Diehard Residents fans will surely want this for their collection but other folks...will probably be interested. Although not our favorite Residents DVD, *The Residents Play Wormwood* is still an intriguing and unique view. (Rating: 5)



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