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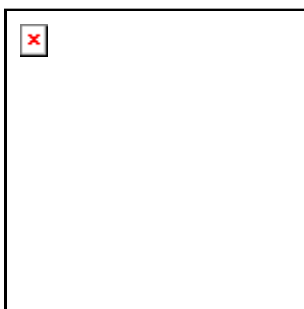
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GG Allin & The Murder Junkies

Terror In America Live 1993

MVD Music

King of the punk rock performance piece returns from beyond the grave for one more jaunt.

Dear, sweet GG. He was such a misunderstood soul, you know - did a lot of great work for charity, fostered a number of orphan children, did some great work in establishing diplomatic relations between the US and various foreign countries and generally was an all-round mellow dude with a message of peace and harmony... no, wait a minute, I've just read out the introduction to Robert Elms. Do you know Robert Elms?

Of course I'm lying my very pretty ass off. GG was a big bad mad bastard, a true rock 'n' roll wildman in a sea of pretenders, and the PMRC's worst nightmare made flesh. Of all the "hardcore" punk rock frontmen, GG was always the daddy - utterly peerless. No one pushed the envelope or lived the role like he did. Then again, when your act regularly involves stripping naked onstage, shitting on it, smearing yourself with the shit, eating the shit and fighting with your audience (who, in direct contrast to 99.9% of rock audiences, normally spent the gig trying to stay as far away from the frontman as possible), not many people are going to even try to match you. Even Iggy Pop's early shows weren't as insane and self-destructive as Allin's.

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Since his death his star has inexorably risen - partly because of Todd Phillips' classic Hated documentary, which captured GG's final days superbly and made a whole generation of people aware of him, yet finished with his funeral (a "party with a corpse", in accordance with his wishes), and of course partly because his death has made him much easier to mythologise without him actually being there to spoil everything by going on Jerry Springer/ signing a major deal/ releasing music worth listening to or otherwise ruining his legend like so many others have.

This DVD, the latest in a long line to compile the considerable amount of existing amateur footage of GG and keep his legend going and his brother Merle in moustache wax, features three shows from his final tour (two of which were filmed by his sometime biographer Evan Cohen), plus some footage of the man himself hanging round the family pool, getting tattooed, in the studio and doing an instore appearance. As you might expect, the quality is not the best, but with GG freshly out of prison and on incendiary form, that hardly matters.

For a curious first timer, I'd still have to recommend Hated, but (particularly as it was filmed around the same time) this is a very complimentary release if you already have Hated and are seeking more Allin action. It has to be a better way to experience him than going to the shows....

www.ggallin.com

By **Eddie Thomas**

This release was published on 26 Mar 2006.

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