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## Metalmania 2005 DVD Review

Submitted by [Meredith](#) on Thu, 06/29/2006 - 11:26pm. [Album Reviews](#)

### *Metalmania 2005*: DVD/Album Review MVD Visual, 2006

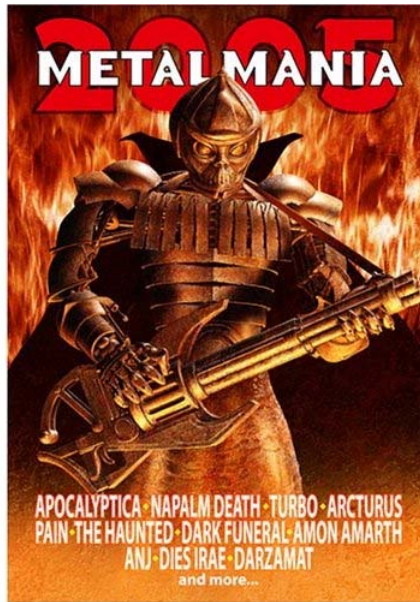
Metal shows can be the epitome of mayhem. An entire festival devoted to metal, however, should be utter destruction: bodies thrashing, hair flying, and, most certainly, amazing and heart-pounding music that spews out every note of dissent and passion that a metal fan has ever wished to dispel.

Now, envision a stage upon which notorious metal acts from Europe and America simply stand upon, subdued, and play. Such is the tone of *Metalmania 2005*, a DVD profiling notable performances from the annual Polish metal festival of the same name. While the event itself may have been much more exciting as an audience member, much of the DVD plays out like an awkward middle-school recital.

It is apparent by each band's meticulous chords, wailing guitar solos, and frenetic drumming that the performers are all incredibly talented. Each of their unique strains of goth rock, hair metal, and thrash differentiate them from the artists who play before and after. The disc opens, for instance, with Darzamat, a somber and Evanescence-like goth band. However, the next performer is Dies Irae, a group of musical superstars burdened by a not-so-amazing falsettoed frontman. Genre variety is one of the high points of the DVD.

The true stars of the festival are on a far higher level, musically, than each of the other performers. Napalm Death, although second to last on the DVD, were the first act to incite a loud chants from the native audience, who inadvertently mispronounced their name. "Silence is Deafening" stands out as an exceptionally good song and it is refreshing to finally see a group make use of the large stage. Although Apocalyptica, the headliners, remained seated, their visionary use of traditional instruments like cello and upright bass pardon their subdued set. It is easy during the Apocalyptica performance to recognize the serene beauty that metal can possess when stripped down of its clichés. Even when covering Metallica's "Seek and Destroy," the unconventional Finnish rockers prove their skill as metal musicians while still emulating a progressive sound.

*Metalmania 2005* lacks the amount depth in performance variety and cinematography necessary to keep its viewer challenged. Although the music isn't dislikeable, the lack of interaction with the massive audience by most all of the performers provide the home viewer with a sense of disconnect from the artists with which he hopes to identify. Watching a



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festival should be akin to actually *being* at the festival: loud, raucous, and often mind-blowing. Unfortunately, it is in this fashion that most performers on *Metalmania 2005* fail.

\*The DVD comes with a few extras, including a CD of half awesome and half nu-metal bands. It's definitely worth the selective listen.\*

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