

A Sister no more

A 1997 concert by Dee Snider after his band, Twisted Sister, split up, is updated with interview material from 2001 in the MVD Music Video *Special Edition* release, **Dee Snider Deevision** (UPC#663300699996). Having discarded the more flamboyant aspects of his Twisted Sister persona while retaining the essence of his hard rocking music, Snider puts on a reasonably decent show in the 112-minute program, while the interviews, which are pretty much placed between every number, go over his career to that point. If anything, he is probably too level-headed (at one point, he admonishes his fans to calm down a bit and not hurt one another) and intelligent to make it farther than he did, and the film career that the program was also trying to promote never went anywhere, but the show is a decent capsule of his accomplishments and a fair presentation of his music.

The picture is presented in full screen format only. The colors are a little faded and the image is grainy at times, but the presentation is functional. There is not necessarily a lot of separations in the 5.1-channel Dolby Digital track, but the music has plenty of energy and clarity. There is no captioning. Also featured are 9 minutes of additional concert numbers and a trailer for one of the horror movies Snider was in.

Still punk

A 2004 punk concert that feels like a throwback to an earlier time, **Charged G.B.H. On Stage City Baby Attacked by Rats**, is available Secret Films and MVD Visual (UPC#022891450498, \$20). The only thing that gives away the show's age is the quality of the video and audio recordings, which are substantially better than they were in punk's glory days. The 53-minute set, shot in London, is relentless, barrel-ahead rock with screaming vocals, wall-of-noise guitars, and it sounds quite rousing on the 5.1-channel Dolby Digital take-no-prisoners audio track. The lead singer is dressed in a leather jacket and tight jeans, with his blond hair made white by the stage lighting, and he puts on a fairly good show although he must be sweating profusely. The program also cuts effectively to the other band members, who are dressed more practically. The full screen image is sharp and clearly detailed. There is no captioning. Also featured is a decent 13-minute collection of home movies showing the band members relaxing and getting wasted while on tour, and a rambling but still interesting 48-minute interview with the band.

Olivera likes 'em locked up

Apparently, exploitation director Oiswaldo de Olivera likes the idea of keeping women confined, as can be attested to in the two Blue Underground releases of Olivera features, **Bare Behind Bars** (UPC#82-7058111997, \$30) and **Amazon Jail** (UPC#827058112093, \$30). Both films were shot in Brazil and often make effective use of their locations. Both monophonic presentations are dubbed in English and are not captioned. Both programs are accompanied by trailers.

The heroines are incarcerated in an oppressive female penitentiary in the 1980 **Bare Behind Bars**, while the warden occasionally rents out their favors, the nurse takes great pleasure in finding hidden contraband and the guards can't wait for a prisoner to commit an infraction and earn a punishment. Everyone, however, seems to enjoy the showers. The erotic sequences are mostly softcore, but they push the limits at times, and there is a little hardcore footage slipped in. More importantly, the film never lingers too long on any one sequence, erotic or otherwise, and there is enough narrative—some of the girls eventually escape and are tracked down in a shantytown—to give the 94-minute film an atmosphere of wild clutter where you never know what will turn up next.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, windowboxed with an aspect ratio of about 1.75:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The color transfer looks fine and fleshtones are passable. The sound is fairly strong.

In the 1982 **Amazon Jail**, the heroines are not convicts, but become captives of white slavers who maintain a holding pen in a conveniently remote location. While some of the women are cooperative, most of them resent the presumptions of their captors and find solace in one another until an elaborate escape through the jungle is organized. Running 93 minutes, the erotic sequences are softcore, but are reasonably elaborate (although not as raunchy as **Bare behind Bars**), and the personality pairings (characters range in both levels of innocence and vindictiveness) are enough to keep fans reasonably bemused by the proceedings. The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, windowboxed with an aspect ratio of about 1.66:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The color transfer looks fairly nice. The image is a little grainy, but fleshtones are accurate and hues are bright. The sound is passable.

Olga likes 'em tied up

A power-obsessed madam takes revenge on underlings who dare to defy her, and even the ones that don't, in **Olga's Girls**, a Synapse Films release (UPC#654930304099, \$20). The 1964 black-and-white program was shot without sound, so the entire film has voiceover narration trying to make sense of its incoherent plot, backed by a stock musical score that features endless replays of *Sleeping Beauty* and *Night on Bald Mountain*. As

nonsensical as the 70-minute feature is, however, fans will probably enjoy watching the women torture one another, especially since there is a certain innocence to the film's idea of violence, and human behavior in general.

The full screen image is fully windowboxed. The picture looks fairly nice, and the cinematography is one of the film's stronger components. The monophonic sound is adequate and there is no captioning. A trailer is included, and Olga herself, star Audrey Campbell, supplies a commentary track, prompted by eager film historian Andre Salas. The track is fairly lightweight. They don't discuss Campbell's career or share at length anecdotes about the production or the other players, but Campbell does admit that there was no script. The director, Joseph P. Mawra, just came to the set every day and made things up, which would explain why nobody can make heads or tails of what is going on.

DVD News

THIEF TALK: The Criterion Collection release of the classic Michael Powell feature, **The Thief of Bagdad**, will have two commentary tracks, including one that features Martin Scorsese and Francis Coppola.

MORE 24: Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment's **24 Season One Special Edition** will have two new episode commentaries, another new alternate ending, new deleted and extended scenes and other new features. **Junjo** will have a commentary track, an extensive number of deleted scenes and many other special features. **Walk Hard The Dewey Cox Story** will have a commentary, deleted scenes and an extensive number of other supplements. **Alien vs. Predator** will have two commentaries, rated and unrated versions, and numerous featurettes.

SPECIAL PASSAGE: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment's **Passage to India Special Edition** will have a producer commentary and a number of featurettes. **And Justice for All** will have deleted scenes and an interview with Norman Jewison. **The Water Horse Legend of the Deep** will have several featurettes. **First Knight Special Edition** will have two commentaries. **Hero Wanted** will have a Cuba Gooding, Jr. commentary and deleted scenes.

BLU-RAY TODAY: The following titles have recently been released on Blu-Ray—Crimson Tide, To Kill a King (Anchor Bay); Becoming Janc, Gone Baby Gone (Buena Vista); Killing Machine/Shogun's Ninja, Night of the Werewolf/Vengeance of the Zombies, Sister Street Fighter/Sister Street Fighter 2 (Brentwood); Deep Purple Live at Montreux 2006, Santana Hymns for Peace Live at Montreux 2004, Yes Live at Montreux 2003 (Eagle Rock); Me Myself & Irene, Wall Street (Fox); Across the Universe, Celine Dion A New Day Live in Las Vegas, Run Lola Run, 30 Days of Night, We Own the Night (Sony); Initial D (Tai Seng); Over America in High Definition, Over California in High Definition (Topics); The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, The Brave One, In the Valley of Elah, The Jane Austen Book Club, Justice League The New Frontier, Led Zeppelin The Song Remains the Same, Michael Clayton, No Reservations (Warner); The Amateurs (WEA).

CLOSED OUT OF TOWN: The following titles have been removed from our *Coming Attractions* listing—*Plague Town*, *Summer Place* (Ryko), *Pharaoh's Curse/Curse of the Faceless Man*, and *The Best of IWA Wrestling V.3*.

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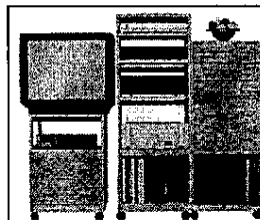
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