

TIAMAT - *The Church of Tiamat* · Metal Mind / MVD

I almost feel like simply pointing out that this was recorded by the a/v gods at Metal Mind in Poland, and letting that be enough. It should be. But, I'll elaborate. The video and audio quality are, as virtually always from Metal Mind, stunning. By this point, it might go without saying that this is anamorphic 16x9 video and 5.1 Dolby Digital *and* DTS surround sound. Speaking of the sound, this is possibly the best live mix I've ever heard. It's just perfect. I don't even like TIAMAT that much anymore, but this live show has me rethinking that. I've missed a couple of the band's more recent albums, but after watching this, I think that I'll give them a chance. What could possibly be higher praise for a live video?

Clearly, any TIAMAT fans will want to track down this gem immediately. Even if you don't like the band's current, I guess I'll say Gothic Metal, style, well, no problem. They dig into the back catalog all the way to 1992's *Clouds* for a couple songs. And the bonus material goes back even further than that! All the way to 1990's *Sumerian Cry* album, with a live version of "Where the Serpents Ever Dwell" from the band's first ever gig. Other bonus material includes additional concept and live video clips (lucky 13 in total!), plus the standard stuff such as discography, photos, and so on... This is truly an impressive DVD in all respects. - 9 - <Ray>

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