

DOCUMENTARY FILM



PETA, Warped Do Not Mix Well

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You've listened to a bunch of awesome bands that played at Van's Warped Tour. You've experienced The Warped Tour first hand. So, you may be interested *Wake Up Screaming*, a documentary of the festival that seemingly feature tons of performances and interviews. Do not be fooled. By performances, it really means, 3 minute lapses when the narrator isn't preaching veganism in his risp-ladden, childlike, overly-scripted voiceover. And, by interviews, it means tattooed punksters ardently feeding the biases of meat-loathing cameramen.

The cameramen and the narrator Jason Bayless, are all members of PETA 2, the Youth Division of the controversial People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. While watching some great (and some stereotypically whiny) emo bands either scream or cry may be a plus, the DVD is riddled with random clips of PETA 2 extremists harassing KFC customers with disgusting truths about food.

While veganism is a respectable aspiration, having Bayless run around with his obvious lisp (that kills all fleeting traces of seriousness) takes away from Warped Tour experience.

Bayless is affectionately called a "Texas-farm-boy-turned-punk-road-warrior" on the DVD, prompting thoughts of "this-guy-might-be-cool-if-he-would-shut-up-about-cows." However, the agenda blurs the DVD's objective. Is this DVD supposed to promote bands, or meatless products? And if it is supposed to promote both, can't it please be more subtle and less irrelevant? Bayless, an older man than most who travels with The Warped Tour should really be more mature. He reveals to the audience his divorce experiences with full-blown scenes of his wife crying and emo-tastic home-movie video shots of divorce desperation. He also takes us on his trip to get his first tattoo, an animal behind bars. He follows bands and begs them to talk about soybean goodness and why eating meat is a sin.

The performances by Emory, Hawthorne Heights, Silverstein, Bleed the Dream, Strike Anywhere and others were decent (albeit poor sound quality) and some interviews were worthy, but that is as good as it gets.

Bottom line: If I wanted to learn about vegans, I wouldn't be perusing the Warped Tour DVD selections, and if I wanted to watch some bands perform I sure as hell wouldn't be sitting down to watch a documentary on PETA 2. In the end, the combo bucket just didn't deliver.



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