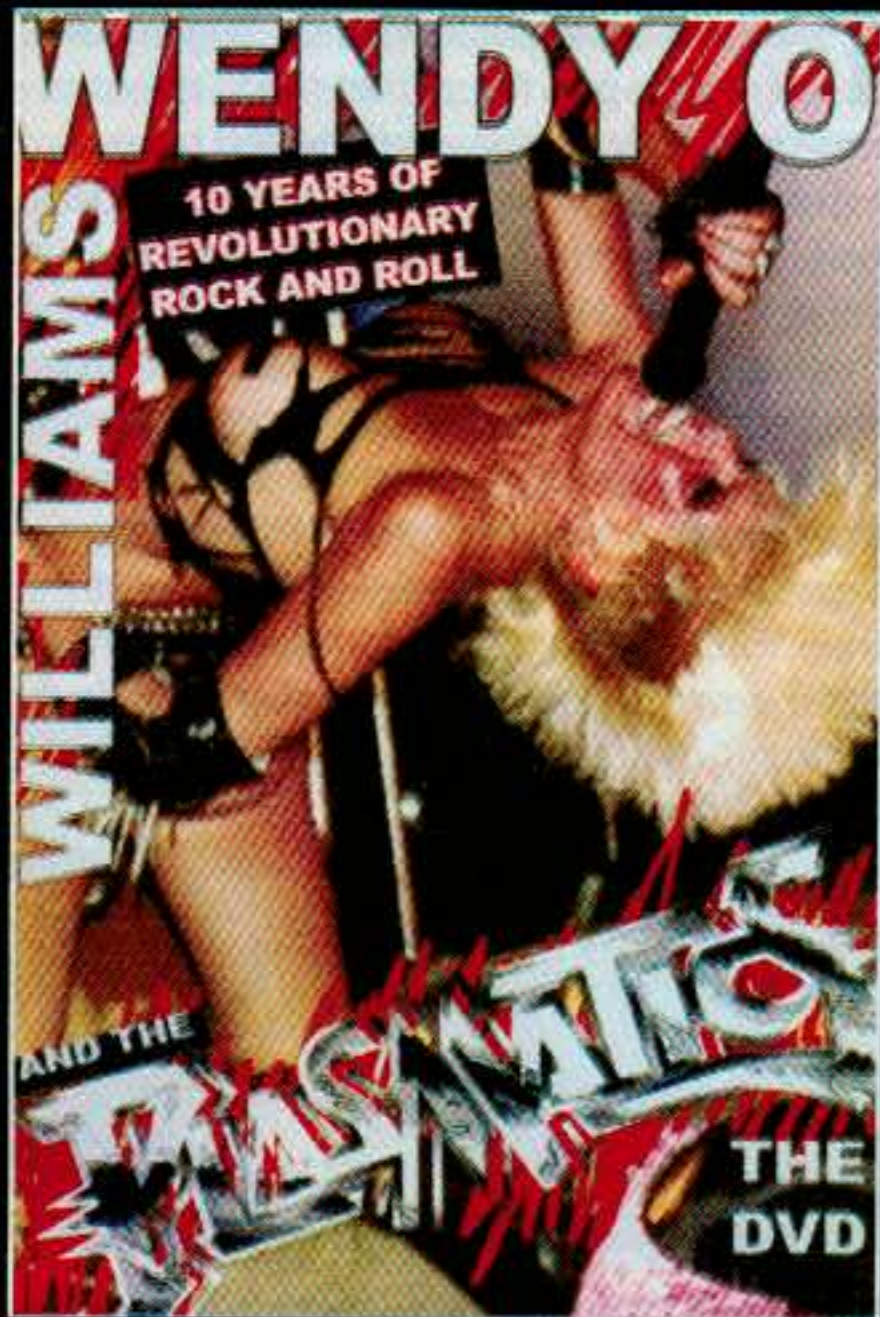


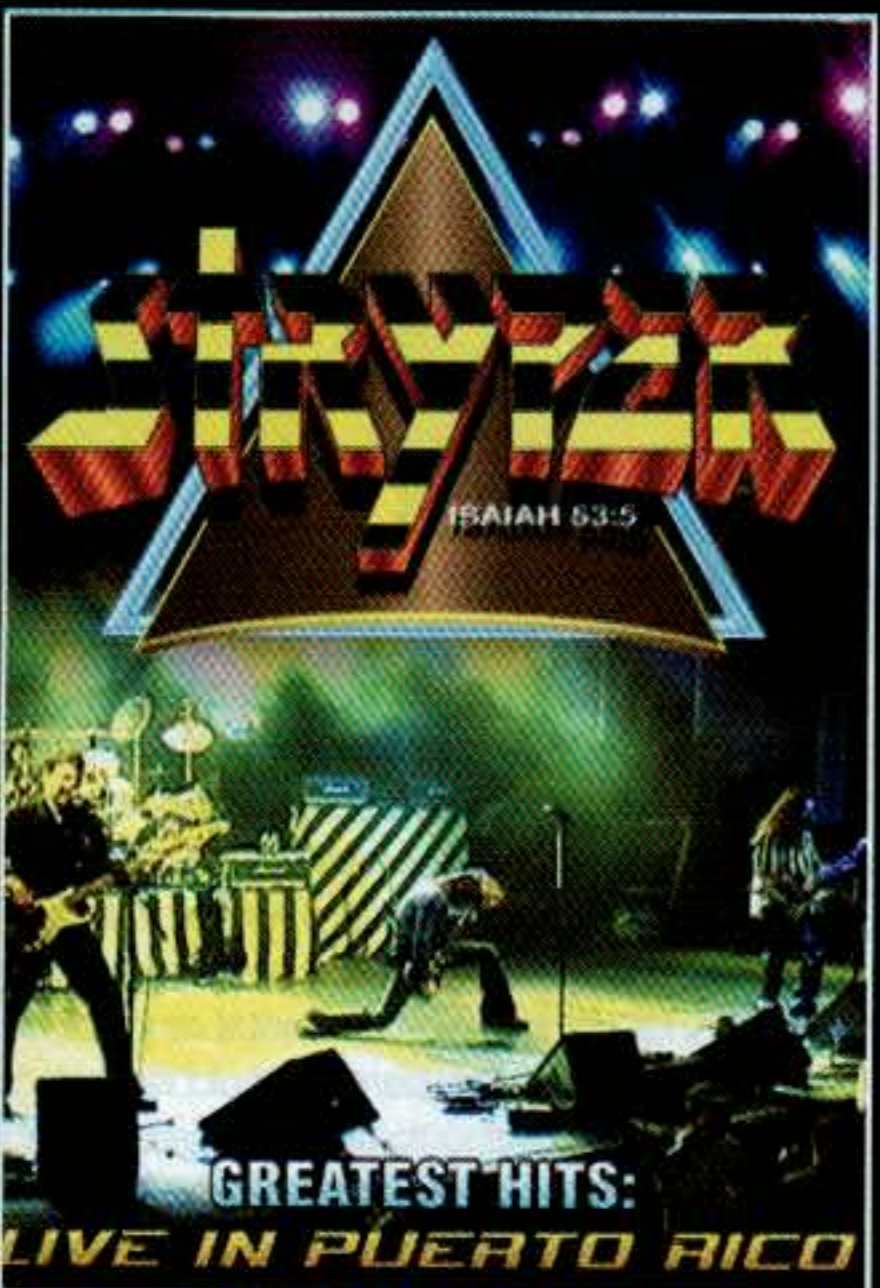
## THE PLASMATICS

10 Years Of Revolutionary  
Rock And Roll  
MVD Visual



## STRYPER

Greatest Hits: Live In  
Puerto Rico  
MVD Entertainment



The Plasmatics were designed as a radical attack against societal complacency and commercialism. Archivist fans of the band will find this DVD to be somewhat incomplete—the overwhelming complaint being the exclusion of original lead guitarist Richie Stotts from the commentary. For the novice just discovering the band, over three hours of content provides a better-than-average overview of an accosting history between 1978 and 1987.

Compiled in a ragged cut and past series of still photographs and newspaper clippings, the presentation reflects the makeshift punk disorder of their destructive stage shows. Abundant live footage is the wealth of the material, much of it rare, particularly 1981 performances from Bond's International Casino and Perkins Place. Also included are promotional videos filmed for "The Damned" and "It's My Life," featuring the willful frontwoman performing her own stunts.

The glaring absence of commentary from band mastermind Rod Swenson detracts from the authenticity of the DVD. Other than occasionally being discussed during interview segments with booking agents and members of the road crew, a 2006 snapshot provides the only current reference.

Also lacking is input from key participants in Plasmatics history, such as Lemmy Kilmister, who recorded an abrasive duet with Williams in 1982, a cover of the Tammy Wynette track "Stand By Your Man" that led to guitarist Fast Eddie Clarke leaving Motörhead. Gene Simmons is likewise absent, although his production of the 1984 *W.O.W.* album is discussed, as are the contributions of fellow Kiss members Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley and Eric Carr that marked a further transition from punk to more of a metal style.

The bulk of the interview segments feature guitarist Wes Beech and drummer T.C. Tolliver. UK writers Dante Bonutto and Malcom Dome, who reverently covered The Plasmatics throughout their years with *Kerrang* magazine, offer their opinions and recollections.

The DVD does well to trace the band through the course of four studio albums and a string of 7" singles and EPs. Repeated clashes with local authorities over the hazards of their stage shows, and also law enforcement—notably an incident in which Wendy was beaten by police after a Milwaukee concert—are well documented through recollection and incriminating photographs. The shortcoming is that nothing beyond the late '80s is addressed. The following years that culminated with Wendy O. Williams' 1998 suicide are left blank, making the ending of *The Plasmatics and Wendy O. Williams: 10 Years of Revolutionary Rock and Roll* feel like an unfinished story. —Roger Lotring

"Hails And Hosanna" for the metal messengers of the most high, they have returned to bring us their first full-concert DVD ever. Filmed in Puerto Rico back in March of 2004, this video presents a reunited lineup of Stryper performing the greatest hits from their albums in front of a very enthusiastic crowd.

During the hair metal years of the '80s, Stryper was a band that ruled MTV and was immediately recognizable for both their positive Christian message as well as their yellow and black spandex outfits. The music world today is sans spandex but the message and the music remain strong and sound better than ever before. This is a great way to catch up on these guys and discover what they are capable of, especially if you only know of songs like "Honestly" or "Calling On You." There is certainly a lot more to absorb with this performance and in the concert setting you will find yourself impressed at how good they actually sound.

The band reunited for their CD best-of compilation *7: The Best Of Stryper*, a disc sounding very upfront as opposed to the original mixes. It's clear from start to finish that the members of Stryper are all kick-ass musicians, and the vocal powers you hear on the records are not the result of studio trickery.

Lead singer/guitarist Michael Sweet shows that he can shred as much as Oz Fox while drummer brother Robert Sweet (the visual timekeeper) mans a massive kit that he pounds relentlessly. He sits sideways, in case you didn't know.

The band also shows that their message is serious as at one point they all stop performing to disburse Bibles to the audience. No gimmicks or trick here, folks. Stand-out numbers are "Soldiers Under Command" and "Loud And Clear," but the closer, "Winter Wonderland" will definitely amuse most—the show is being held in sunny Puerto Rico—doesn't that just seem a little bit strange? This great concert reminds of a special time in metal history and that not all the music is dark and somber. —Ken Pierce