

GG Allin & The Murder Junkies
Hated
MVD Visual

There's a really uncomfortable disconnect between Allin's onstage performances and his self-aggrandizing rants; the gist of which seem to be that he hates everyone and doesn't care about anything. Yeah, that's why he's fronted more than a dozen bands, appeared on shows like *Geraldo* and agreed to do this documentary.

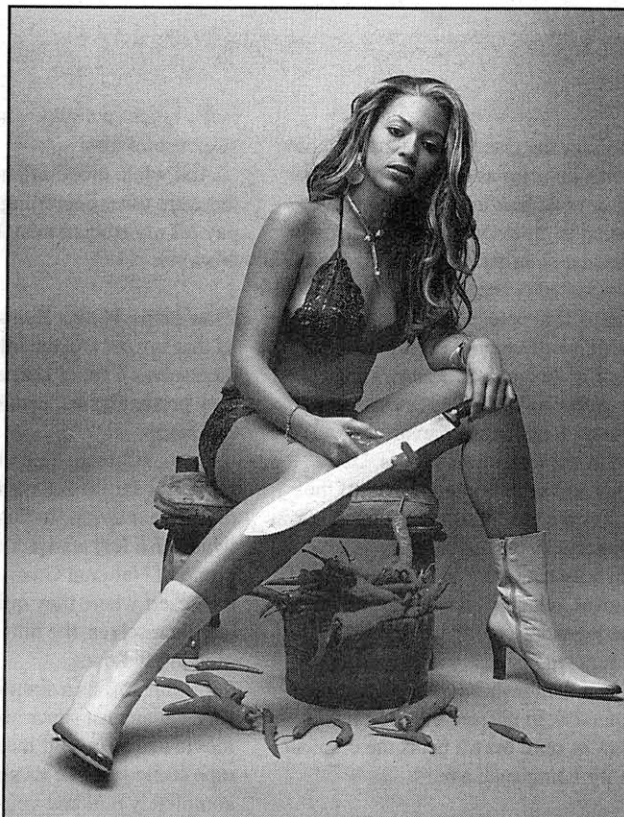
Some of the funnier parts include the interviews with perennially naked drummer and insane person Dino Sexx, the Dee Dee Ramone interview and any of the audience reaction at NYU. I'm sixty percent sure I saw Jim from *The Office* in the audience.

What can I really say about this though? It's roughly an hour of watching GG smear himself in shit, grab women by the hair and shake his cock around. I guess that stuff might of been pretty shocking pre-Norwegian Black Metal church burnings and ritualized murder. But watching a GG spoken word performance from the late eighties where he burns a newspaper, hits a girl, promises to kill himself on stage in a year, and, well, drinks some beer all in the name of rock n' roll just comes off as a sort of desperate grasp for attention.

• Kevin Boyer

Beyonce
B Day: Anthology Video Album
Columbia

This DVD is totally bonkers. Sure, Beyonce is much more talented than the majority of her pop-clone peers, but does she really need a high-budget video for every song on her album?



First of all, Kitty Kat/Green Light has her riding a giant cat while dressed like Eartha Kitt. Then, she dances around in a variety of PVC dresses while an all-female band with keytars rock out behind her. Okay, so that last part is kind of cool.

Upgrade U is actually a pretty bangin' track too (though unfortunately still nowhere near as awesome as *Crazy In Love*), and the video features a Beyonce dancing for another Beyonce with Jay-Z's voice coming out of that second Beyonce's mouth. Oh yeah, and did I mention that she also rolls around in some gold watches, shoves a diamond in her mouth, and swims with a tiny alligator?

Flaws And All is basically just footage of Beyonce clowning around on grainy black and white film, and the song is really boring. Suga Mama shows her rockin' the stripper poles, while Déjà Vu has her going totally mental in a variety of settings. Ring The Alarm is the best though, with Beyonce hamming it up in a bizarre homage to *Basic Instinct*.

There's also a behind the scenes featurette on here, and a documentary section called *Ultimate Performer*. It's all semi-entertaining to watch once, but unless you're a super-fan or a 14-year-old girl (or both), I wouldn't bother.

• Jesse Locke

New Orleans: Music In Exile
Starz Productions

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. 80 per cent of the city was flooded, with some parts under 15 feet of water. At least 1,836 people lost their lives and the storm is estimated to have been responsible for \$81.2 billion (2005 U.S. dollars) in dam-

age, making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. That's pretty serious. And, as the worst disaster to happen in the United States since 9-11 inspired George W. Bush's "War On Terror", the flooding got serious, and international, media coverage.

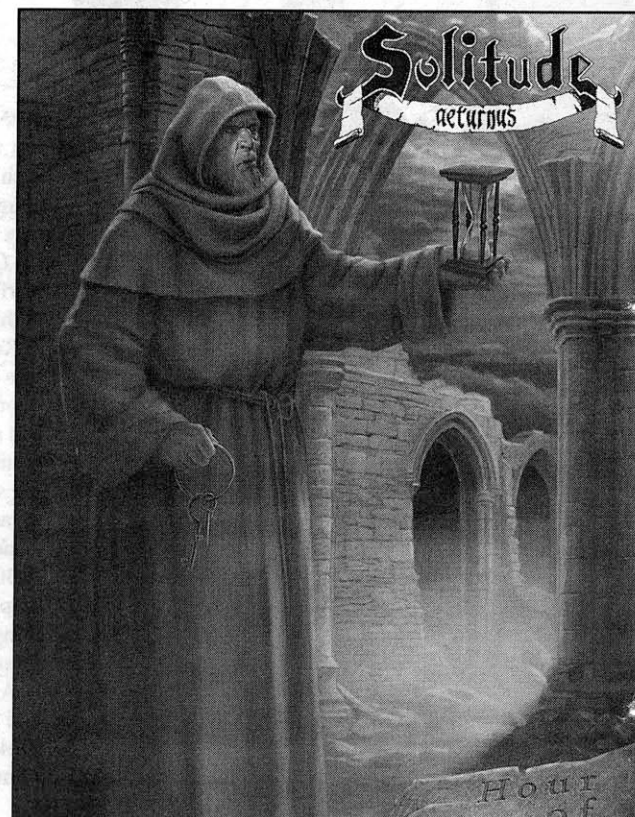
In 2006, The Red Cross published a World Disasters Report which analyzed neglected global crises, concluding that they "persist despite record levels of financial contributions to more high profile disasters." The report found "there are huge inequalities in access to assistance, as aid is increasingly driven by media coverage and politics."

The report's data shows the financial commitments of United Nations appeals closely mirror media coverage with high profile disasters capturing the highest levels of aid per beneficiary. The best-funded crisis got 50 times more money per beneficiary than some of worse-funded (for lack of publicity) crises in Chad, Guyana, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Niger.

According to the World Disasters Report, the inequalities of aid lead to neglect and higher vulnerability of women in many humanitarian responses. For example, following the 2005 South Asia earthquake, some 17,000 disaster-affected women in Pakistan were estimated to be close to giving birth but there was a critical shortage of female doctors and health workers deployed in the response.

Documentarian Robert Mugge's investigation of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on (mostly mediocre) contemporary New Orleans musicians contributes to the problem the Red Cross identifies. Anyone who buys this DVD is helping maintain the United States' grip on the world's money and minds.

• Mike Pathos



Solitude Aeternus
Hour Of Despair
Metal Mind Productions

Texas isn't really known as being the Mecca of doom metal. Yet Arlington's own Solitude Aeternus have marked their 20th anniversary with the release of their first DVD, *Hour Of Despair*. The DVD was filmed during a tour of Poland and released by Poland's own Metal Mind, and is comprised of a full 70 minute, professionally filmed concert and a wide range of extras, including interviews with two of the members and some vintage live footage of the band from 1987 and 1992.

The band themselves are quite capable musicians, however for the most part, their performance leaves something to be desired. They remain somewhat stationary during their set, and their energy level seems to mimic the crowd's. The Polish fans aren't the most raucous ones you'll find out there, politely banging their heads to the music.

The video quality isn't anything to rave about, but certainly isn't bad by any stretch. The sound quality on the other hand is quite good, with none of the instruments being lost in the cacophony that is Solitude Aeternus.

Overall, this is a quality release from the band, but may not appeal to the average metal fan. Doom metal isn't as accessible as some of the other metallic genres, but for the discerning doom fan, this DVD might be one to pick up.

• Dave Sanders