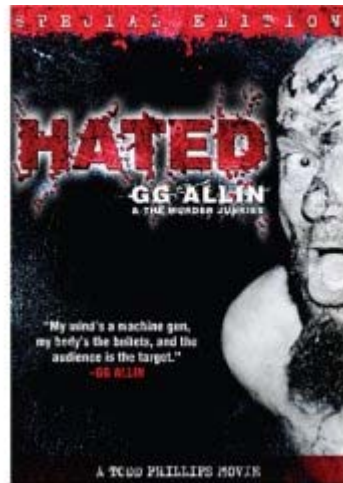




DVD Reviews

"Hated: GG Allin and The Murder Junkies" (Special Edition)

Director: Todd Phillips, MVD



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MVD

Aug. 7

In the years since his death by heroin overdose, GG Allin's antics and very existence have become to the music world what the "Aristocrats" joke is to comedy insiders. Like the joke, Allin is an urban quasi-myth, an excessive anti-hedonist whose name is met with little more than a blank stare from all but the most dutiful of music folklorists.

Although now, mired as we are in the YouTube generation, you could probably say, "You know, the dude who stuck the banana in his ass at NYU," and most people would respond with, "Oh THAT guy!"

Unlike that joke, however, tales told of Allin are not in any way exaggerations or hyperbole—there is simply no room for any. His onstage behavior and drug use could turn Johnny Rotten to the priesthood. Yet, though he remained bizarre, eccentric and foulmouthed offstage, he came across in interviews as pensive, calm, and clearheaded, leading one to believe that perhaps, to quote John Wayne Gacy, "there was a brain behind what he did."

Director Todd Phillips' guerilla documentary Hated: GG Allin and the Murder Junkies chronicles all of this, in that nearly half-decade stint that comprised Allin's most prolific and controversial years...beginning with his decision to skip parole in order to make himself available to Phillips.

Phillips (of Road Trip, Old School, and Starsky & Hutch fame) chooses to neither condemn nor laud nor explain his subject here, instead providing a plethora of ultra-rare and extremely candid interviews, video footage, and anecdotes regarding the late punk icon.

Aside from a few snippets of purely informative narration, Phillips simply lets the footage speak for itself, and forces you to figure things out on your own.

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And good Lord, does it speak. The documentary, completely uncensored and unflinching, depicts every depraved (or, depending on how you look at it, inspired) bit of insanity in which Allin partakes, from the infamous banana incident, to defecating onstage and rolling in it, to slicing himself open and engaging in all-out brawls with his fans.

Moments of tenderness are few and far between, but that fact only adds to the impact of seeing home video footage showing GG playing his truly heartfelt and well-written acoustic ballad "Carmelita."

Whether or not you think GG deserves this much attention is irrelevant. Hated is, at the very least, one of the most unapologetic, stark, and downright hilarious music docs ever filmed. Allin himself would be proud...or he might just take a crap on it. You never can tell with that guy.

View this clip from the DVD:



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