



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Eat the Week](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Live Music Calendar](#)
- [Listings](#)
- [Odd Aspects](#)
- [Puzzle Answers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Special Issues](#)



SHOCK ROCK

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By LOUIS FOWLER

Terrifying tunes caught on tape

HATED: GG ALLIN AND THE MURDER JUNKIES

Directed by Todd Phillips
Music Video Distributors

He's a self-described "dangerous force," taking on all the conventions of punk rock, going to such extremes that he even alienates his most vocal contemporaries. His name is GG Allin, and he's the self-destructive leader of the savage rock group Murder Junkies. He is a terrifying force and a tortured soul who takes delight in psychologically tormenting his audience.

The completely unflinching documentary Hated (directed by Todd Phillips, who would later go on to direct Hollywood hits like Old School and Starsky and Hutch), follows GG running from the law as he goes on his last tour. Smearred in bodily fluids, he confronts the audience, causes riots that result in injuries and trauma, and promises to kill himself onstage. Of course, he dies of a heroin overdose. Hated is an insightful but extremely dark look into the mind of a sociopath who also happens to play the guitar, albeit not very well.

THE MENTORS: EL DUCE VITA

Directed by Various
Music Video Distributors

The Mentors might go down in history as the most disgusting rock band ever — and not just for the subject matter of their music. Led by the slovenly El Duce (who's brief claim to fame was that Courtney Love allegedly paid him to kill Kurt Cobain), the Mentors are short on talent but high on misogyny. They were even shocking enough to enter the Tipper Gore-led Parents' Music Resource Center scandal of the '80s with lyrics that even stunned free-speech advocate Frank Zappa.

This collection of their homemade videos starts and ends with a dazed El Duce reading a smut mag under a beachfront lifeguard station. The videos — "Golden Showers," for example — are presented in their low-fi glory and function as a study of punk-rock oddities. Much like GG Allin, El Duce was found dead, but not of the expected heroin overdose: He was ripped apart by a train when he passed out drunk on the tracks.

SOCIETY OF GENITORTURE

Directed by The Enforcer
Music Video Distributors

Gen, the leader of the industrial, freak-show group the Genitorturers, aims to dispel the notion that feminist musicians must resemble dreadlocked, folkie types. Utilizing frank sexuality that makes Liz Phair look like Amy Grant, the Genitorturers begin as a part of the same Florida hardcore scene that spawned Marilyn Manson and eventually transform their musical act into a full-blown stage show best described as a true cavalcade of perversion. And that's a good thing.

Broken into three acts — "Circus Satanica," "The Interrogation" and "The Sacrifice" — Society of Genitorture is a live-action spectacle of body piercing, bondage and Satanism. It's like the wall of a tattoo parlor come to life, only with a pulsating, grinding soundtrack.

NECROPHAGIA: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE DEAD (UNCUT)

Directed by Jim VanBebber
Music Video Distributors

How exactly does one distinguish "good" death metal from "bad" death metal? It all kind of sounds the same: evil growling suspended by apocalyptic guitars and, of course, a skull-pounding double bass-drum beat. But Necrophagia sets itself apart from the rest by their videos, short gore films (directed by Jim VanBebber, of The Manson Family fame) that make no sense, but are extremely freaky. Hands are lopped off, skin is munched, demons mosh to Satanic hymns — you can't see this stuff on MTV.

Also featured are unintentionally hilarious interviews with an obviously "under the influence" band, who proceed to espouse their dour views on life and somehow equate everything to the 1980 film Cannibal Holocaust. Despite the silliness, Through the Eyes is a trip that's hard to shake.

[< Prev](#)