

DAGGER ZINE

03.07.08

Tad

BUSTED CIRCUITS AND RINGING EARS- (MVD)- Of all the potential subjects of a dvd treatment on the Seattle grunge scene I didn't think that Tad would be near the top of the list but the folks behind this did a damn good job with it. Painting its subject with the right amount of humor and tension, the latter stemming from drugs, lawsuits, inner-band turmoil and death of a friend (Kurt Cobain). From the minds of Sub Pop owners, Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poneman came the idea of painting the picture of a demented, 300 lb lumberjack (butcher, actually) from the wilds of the Northwest. And it worked. All of the press the band received, especially that in the UK had pictures of these guys with flannels, chain saws, goggles and the like. It also helped in photos that Tad himself, a very large man, would have a twisted smile and an occasional bowie knife in his hands (ie: on the cover of the band's terrific debut lp, GOD'S BALLS). There's plenty of fantastic live footage which shows just how heavy the band could be both literally and figuratively Along the way you get to hear commentary from Tad himself as well as his bassist Kurt Danielson and drummer Steve Weid (whose words occasionally seemed bittersweet and occasionally downright sad) as well as assorted members of Mudhoney, Soundgarden, Zeke, Nirvana and a few others offering up their take on what a live Tad show could be like and the constant state of flux of the Seattle scene in general. You also hear tales of getting dropped by record labels as well as lawsuits, one by Pepsi and one from a couple that the band used on the cover of their 3rd record, 8 WAY SANTA (now apparently born again Christians). While now being older, wiser and calmer, you get a sense from the interviews of 4 guys who at the time were having a blast and wanted to ride it as long as they could. www.mvdvisual.com