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dvd reviews

TAD

Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears
(Metal Mind)

ICRUSHER

Extensive Videography
From Influential Brit Label
(Earache)

DARK FUNERAL

Atteral Orbis Terrarum
(Regain)

DRUM WARS

The Ultimate Battle:
Carmine & Vinny Apiece
(MVD)

HATED

GG ALLIN & The Murder Junkies
(MVD)

JOHNNY THUNDERS

Who's Been Talking?
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THE MENTORS

El Duce Vita
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The Pitfalls of Drumming for
Scumbags.
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tad



TAD

Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears
(Metal Mind)



I don't buy it when they say that had luck never been averse to Tad they would have been huge. Maybe they should have because their music was that good, but truth be told, even with the right push from a financially stable record company that actually believed in them, there was always little opportunity for the masses to latch onto their music. Tad's art was quite acerbic, super thrashy and clanky metalized rock music. It reeked of unpolished punkness and it degenerated from music with no commercial appeal. In great part, it was good because of that. But let's be real; Tad did not have any of the easily recognizable hooks of Nirvana, nor was the band fronted by a screen friendly photogenic vocalist. But what they lacked in sex appeal they more than made up in quality. In great part, Tad was great also because of that.

What's important is that albums like *Inhaler* and *Infrared Riding Hood* kick so much ass you'll need a cushion afterwards. Nowadays, everyone loves them. The underground as usual is in the know, and as they claim, they were always into Tad. Ooohh yeah! But back then the only human being sporting around a Tad t-shirt was that blond kid from that horrible Australian band Silverchair. Kudos to him.

The documentary *Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears* limits itself to telling the Tad story. That's it. Which really, isn't all that much different than any other story of a great sounding band that never made it big. But still, it vividly tells the happenings of the band from beginning to end on the words from Tad the big man, all the members of the band with the exception of guitarist Gary Thorstensen who declined inclusion, and the two guys who founded Sub Pop Records and first signed Tad (Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poneman), along with producer Jack Endino, Soundgarden guitarist Kim Thayil, the first drummer for Nirvana, a dude from Mudhoney and a dude from Zeke and shortly, Kris Novoselic, the bassist for Nirvana. That's ok.

Tad himself sports a Yob t-shirt, which is really cool and does indeed seem like one giant 'teddy bear of a man' as he is described by some. And along the way we learn that contrary to the typical course of rock bands; for Tad there was first an album and then a band, we learn that Tad isn't a dumbass idiot savant redneck as SubPop first marketed him, that there were drugs being consumed by the band, there were problems with their major label dealings because they were too difficult to market. I know, plenty of spoilers there but that's all stuff you'd expect from any band worth checking out. The best thing about it is that *Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears* shines, perhaps for the last time, the spotlight on a great band that should, even a couple of decades late, get your attention at last.

...not your mother's music



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