

TAD Busted Circuits & Ringing Ears (MVD Visual)

Gone are the flannel shirts, long matted hair and scruffy beards, only to be replaced by graying facial hair, glasses and a whole lot of amazing stories.

A few years before the whole

“grunge explosion,” there was a heavy – I mean really heavy – band in Seattle simply called TAD. The band took their name from their 300-plus-pound front man Thomas A. Doyle, aka Tad Doyle. Along with bassist Kurt Danielson (both previously played in the Seattle band Bundle of Hiss), TAD dressed the part of redneck Northwest lumberjacks and took their influences from '70s heavy metal bands like Black Sabbath rather than the punk roots that most of the Seattle big-name bands were influenced by.

TAD brought in guitarist Gary Thorstensen and one-time Skin Yard drummer Steve Wied to complete the quartet. With their ear-shatteringly-loud, slow sludge sound, TAD crushed everything in its sight to earn a record deal with the up-and-coming local “grunge” label Sub Pop Records in 1989.

Their debut was entitled *God's Balls* (produced by engineer pioneer Jack Endino) and their second release *Salt Lick* was engineered by Steve Albini. It wasn't until their third release, *8-Way Santa* (produced by Butch Big), that the band finally received mainstream recognition.

Doyle made a cameo in Cameron



Crowe's Seattle-based romantic comedy “Singles,” and the band was offered a major-label contract by Warner Brothers' subsidiary Giant. Tad's major-label debut, *Inhaler*, was produced by Dinosaur Jr.'s J Mascis and issued in 1993. Despite opening for Soundgarden on their national tour, TAD never achieved the stardom the major label had hoped for. After a few lineup changes and another album, TAD called it quits in 1998.

A decade after their demise, MVD Visual has released the comprehensive TAD DVD *Busted Circuits & Ringing Ears*.

The DVD features archival live footage, interviews, music videos, lost footage, as well as new footage and interviews with the band members. There are also interviews with Krist Novoselic (Nirvana), Mark Arm (Mudhoney), Kim Thayil (Soundgarden), Chad Channing (Nirvana) and a host of others.

It was once said that “TAD took the idea of playing live very seriously; it was a life or death matter,” and *Busted Circuits & Ringing Ears* backs up that sentiment. TAD may not have capitalized on the wave of music a lot of their peers did, but that doesn't mean their music was any less important, and *Busted Circuits & Ringing Ears* certainly documents their importance in the Northwest music history.

Fear House

Cast: Aleece Jones, Matthew Stiller, Olivia Price, Meredith Barnett, Matthew Montgomery
Michael R. Morris, director
(Lifesize Entertainment)

In *Fear House*, Aleece Jones stars as reclusive writer Samantha Ballard who goes off and buys a haunted Victorian house in the California desert to pen the follow-up to her bestseller.

She is gone for a year without any contact with her agent or family, so they all pile into the car to track her

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