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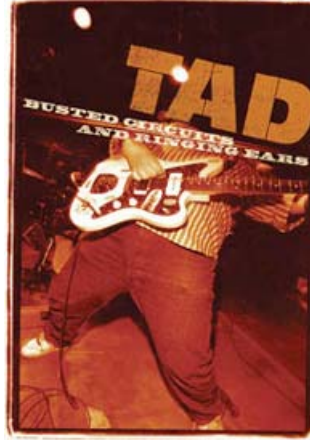
Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears (MVD)
By Craig Regala

Tad was a band. It started as a guy, Tad, who made his first single by himself, and then got together a unit that was the most "grunge" of the grunge bands. Pure, uncut, hard rock riff action without Soundgarden's and Alice In Chains' links to metal, Mudhoney's salt blast garage howl, or Pearl Jam'n'Nirvana's reanimation of classic rock balladry. Tad is closer to Helmet, albeit warmer toned, with a wider bottom. This DVD chronicles the life and times of the man and the band.

Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears gives up a strong sense of place and focus. You really get to know how and why this band existed, and what it was like as they went from kickin' around locally to their collapse. You get plenty of interviews with the band, the guys from SubPop recs, and other guys who played shows with'm. Kim Thayil of Soundgarden, Mark Arm of Green River/ Mudhoney, Krist Novoselic of Nirvana, and Mark Felchtone from Zeke all heap gobs of praise on the band and recount stories about'm. The stuff about the European tour with Nirvana is really enlightening.

Appended to the interview and live clips are his videos, pics of promotional material, some man-on-the-street footage, and the story of "the picture" and "the lawsuits" that helped crush the band. Even if you don't know much about the band, this is a good watch. There are no dull parts, it's well-written, and captures the feel of the era. I hope there are more DVDs of this quality of other cool bands.

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