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SKYSCRAPER

TAD: BUSTED CIRCUITS AND RINGING EARS

Dirs. Adam Pease & Ryan Short DVD – MVD Visual
While the masses will always etch the face of Nirvana as the face of Sub Pop Records, it couldn't be farther from the truth. It was TAD (with Mudhoney) that placed the Seattle label on the map and provided the definition of grunge, before it transpired into the expletive it is known as today. *Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears* is an immense, towering, and laugh riotous rockumentary that mirrors TAD and its leader, Tad Doyle, the 300-pound, incredible hulk of fat, long, greasy locks, full-on beard, and picture of hilarity, perpetually clad in overalls. The film chronicles the band from its infancy, as Doyle records as a one-man outfit before transforming into one of the original flannel-shirted wearing, heaviest and loudest waste-oid sadists in the Northwest and beyond. Pieced together with present-day and old interviews with members of TAD, insane concert clips, videos ("Woodgoblins" and "Stumblin' Man" rule), in-studio and behind the scenes footage, it runs the gamut and avoids the cheesy *Behind the Music* dramatics while documenting the trials and tribulations of their major label years and the "reunion" of Doyle and bassist Kurt Danielson at the end of the film. Comical moments reign though *Busted*, as TAD and Sub Pop co-founders Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poneman recall the naming of their first disc, the greatest album title in rock history, *God's Balls*. Other testimonials include Mark Arm, Krist Novocelic, and Soundgarden's Kim Thayil, all worshipping at the TAD altar while attesting to Sub Pop's familial environment. Not to be missed. (Brad Cohan)