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GRAVE
 Enraptured (MVD/Metal Mind)



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Not only did Swedish legends **GRAVE** make a comeback with 2002's "**Back from the Grave**", but they've also continued to demonstrate that they belong as part of the death metal elite. Following up with 2004's "**Fiendish Regression**" and 2006's outstanding "**As Rapture Comes**",

the quartet is arguably as relevant now as they were as part of the early '90s Swedish death metal explosion along with **UNLEASHED**, **DISMEMBER**, and **NIHILIST/ENTOMBED**. One need only spend a few minutes watching the band's performance at the Stodola Club in Warsaw, Poland on August 24, 2006, captured on film and released on a DVD called "**Enraptured**", to get a feel for the power of **GRAVE**, a veritable death metal institution.

Much like many of **Metal Mind**'s DVD releases, "**Enraptured**" is a no-frills concert DVD with a total running time of 110 minutes. As I've said in past reviews of **Metal Mind** (released on **MVD** in the States) DVDs, keeping it simple by not gorging the DVD with tons of extras and road shenanigans is not a bad thing, but instead is rather refreshing. In addition to the concert itself you get bonus videos of **GRAVE** performing "**Rise**" and "**Into the Grave**" at **Party.San Open Air** in 2004, as well as the band's video for "**Soulless**". A comprehensive interview with guitarist/vocalist **Ola Lindgren** and guitarist **Jonas Torndal** is also included. As for the show, the quartet performs 16 songs, plus an "intro" and "outro," providing a mix of the old and the new, including "**Deformed**", "**Extreme Rotten Flesh**", "**Soulless**", and newer songs like "**By Demons Bred**". The band's performance is first rate and the DVD visuals are strong, though not over-the-top by any means. While the audio quality is fine, it could have been a bit better due to a somewhat cavernous sound and a slight lack of low-end. It's not much of a problem though, simply a minor criticism.

The bottom line is that "**Enraptured**" presents **GRAVE** as a band on top of its game. The DVD is an easy recommendation for not only fans of the band, but newcomers that would like a representative sample of the act's music from throughout its career.

- **Scott Alisoglu**

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