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## Obituary - *Frozen Alive* DVD

By Peter Atkinson, Contributor

Wednesday, February 28, 2007 @ 6:58 PM



MVD Video Distributors

Despite a bit of turbulence — a near split with [guitarist Alan West](#) after some spotty European festival shows where he'd been partying a bit too hard and a break with longtime label Roadrunner — the reunion of Florida's **Obituary** was a largely triumphant affair. After a seven-year hiatus, the quintet unleashed a rock-solid comeback [album](#), *Frozen in Time*, in 2005, toured extensively here and abroad and already are talking about a new album.

The *Frozen Alive* [DVD](#) essentially serves as a culmination to the reunion, and provides a fitting souvenir for the effort. Recorded in Poland at the tail end of the *Frozen In Time* touring cycle, *Alive* finds Obituary every bit the well-oiled death metal machine they were back in the day — and not one that needs to rely on cheap theatrics or show-boating to get the job done.

Indeed, despite ample the opportunities presented by higher-profile festival [appearances](#), *Alive* was filmed at a relatively low-key club show in Warsaw — there's no pyro, special effects or overwrought lighting set-ups. It's just the [band](#) and about a thousand Poles getting their brains beat in.



Tight, brutal and brimming with the dynamism that always set them apart from the herd, Obituary can still kill with the best of 'em. Though hardly the standard for extremity they were when "Florida death metal" reared its hideous head 20 years ago — given what followed in its wake — **John Tardy's** ghastly howl and West/Trevor Peres' mammoth, lock-step riffing remain horrifyingly heavy, with thick, brooding oldies "Chopped In Half" and "*Turned Inside Out*" and the

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newer *"Insane"* and *"Back Inside"* doled out with equal menace.

The 23-track set captured here provides a nice mix of material, going all the way back to the old **Xecutioner** nugget *"Find The Arise"* to a half-dozen tracks from *Frozen In Time*, and features the deft ebb and flow from the up-tempo likes of *"Back to One"* to the creepy-crawly *"Dying"* of a veteran band at the top of their game.

The DVD's special features are kind of a mixed bag, with a smattering of largely sedate backstage footage, a couple bonus [videos](#) (*"Insane"* and *"On The Floor"*), a tedious drum solo — is there any other kind? — from **Donald Tardy** and two somewhat repetitive interview segments conducted by a thickly accented Polish journalist. But the [concert](#) footage is top-notch and enormously satisfying — and, better yet, the sound is concussively clear. And that's what really counts.

\*\*\* 1/2

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And buy *Frozen In Time*

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## READER RANTS

**cannibal4life - 3/1/2007 6:50:22 AM**

if you guys missed this tour at the whisky, you missed out. seen these guys a couple of times and they NEVER disappoint. this will be mine come next pay day.

**forest1979 - 3/1/2007 5:54:06 AM**

The front cover looks like a scene from Spinal Tap. The guitarist (front right of cover) looks like he hasn't taken a dump in a few days.

**metalstake - 3/1/2007 12:10:52 AM**

Love Obituary ... my first experience in live doom that I caught in the Nile club, tempe AZ. When I had to go work there for 4 1/2 months ! Just went to the rock clubs, may 96 (alone) found Halford in Electric Ballroom and then Obituary a little later at the Nile. I thought Phoenix was Great ! Almost moved there!

**analgravy2 - 2/28/2007 10:21:37 PM**

John Tardy has the scariest face and scariest voice in all of metal.

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