

*Metal's Darkside II: The Deeply Disturbed* · MVD / Magick

This is essentially a video magazine, hosted by porn star Jasmin St. Claire. The format is something like *Headbanger's Ball*, only with longer, sort of more in depth interviews, but sadly far fewer video clips. Jasmin isn't exactly a great (or even good, really) interviewer, but she does seem to like the bands she talks to, and at least is enthusiastic, if not actually informed. She asks SUFFOCATION's Frank Mullen, "Have you been a part of the band since day one?" and, both him and Terrance Hobbs, "What do you consider yourselves, like, Death Metal or Thrash Metal?" She's lucky that 1. She's super hot, and 2. Frank and Terrance are two of the coolest people alive. Anyway, her ditziness aside, this really comes down to what bands are featured, and that's kind of a wash this time, with the awesomeness of SUFFOCATION, including the video-clip for "Surgery of Impalement," being somewhat weighed down by the lameness of SHADOWS FALL, and more or less everything else. I was really looking forward to checking out EXODUS's video for "War Is My Shepherd," since it was the only good song from 2004's *Temo of the Damned*, but it's honestly kind of lame (and oddly much more quiet than the rest of the audio on this disc) and censored! The line "Christ never done me a motherfucking favor" has the *fuck* muted out of it. Nothing else here is censored, so this is just weird.

Jasmin also talks to some lameass band I've never heard of called DECONSTRUCT. A quick check on metal-archives.com yields no listing, and confirms my suspicion this this isn't a Metal band at all. I tortured my bleeding ears for maybe 30 seconds of the band's horrific live video before deciding that a description more accurate than Aggro Grunge wasn't really necessary.

The other, really short, interviews are with a couple of the guys in THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER (mostly drunken incoherence, and boring in any case), and ARCH ENEMY's Sharlee D'Angelo. Unfortunatley Jaz doesn't know enough to ask him any questions about the other 666 bands he's played with.

There's also some footage of "fans" that varies from actual humans to idiotic rednecks in a parking lot that look way sub-Ozzfest. Plus Jasmin in a graveyard answering fan mail, and generally acting hydrocephalic.

As an added "bonus," there are two extra video clips, the first of which (FIGHT PARIS - "Complete Heat" - it's gayer than it sounds, even) was so fuckin AIDS-inducing that I was was overjoyed to hear FIREWIND's "Tyranny," right up until the vocals came in and I noticed that the footage look like a stamp-sized web-video blown up to 16 times its normal size. In fact, the video quality on this entire disc, other than the SUFFO' clip, is fairly abysmal. To end on a high note, there is a little extra footage from the SUFFOCAITON interview. No idea why it wasn't just left in the main interview...

Not even SUFFOCATION can save this mess, although it might be worth the pain (and price) to have their video clip, if it's not available elsewhere. - 6 - <Ray>

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