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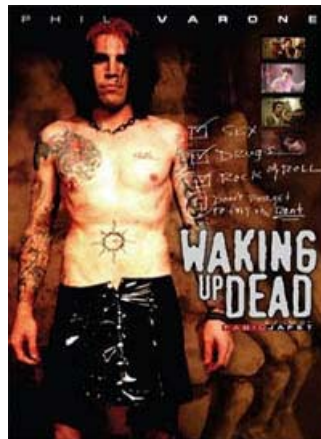
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Waking Up Dead

MVD

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I can remember my boyhood dream was to be a famous rock star. The idea of playing an instrument and getting paid to do it has always sounded like the “ultimate” job. Throw in some fame, fortune and all the glamour and glitz of the “rock star” life and who wouldn’t want to become one? I mean you would have all the money you could ever want, you could do whatever you wanted to do and not to mention the girls that would be attracted to you. In some way I would say there isn’t a guy in this world that wouldn’t mind this life. Well drummer Phil Varone did pursue this dream and it didn’t actually turn we all think it would.

Waking Up Dead is a video diary and autobiography of the life and times of Phil Varone. For those of you not familiar with Varone he was the drummer for the late 80’s and 90’s band Saigon Kick and he is currently the drummer for Skid Row. This video diary is an open book to the highs and extreme low’s his life. Unfortunately his story isn’t too different than many other musicians who have walked down the road of supposed rock and roll fame and fortune... It’s just that no one has ever had the guts to be as vulnerable as Varone by inviting the public to actually watch him drink and snort his career away. What he has actually set out to do is to “expose” the lies of the rock and roll dream. He talks of his dreams of wanting to be a rock and roll star and the excitement he experienced when he signed a major record deal and desires to being set for life... all to find that after 10 – 15 years being broke, divorced and addicted to alcohol and cocaine. It’s a rather sad story to watch as you see this “star”, and father of two allow his life to get to the point that he does. It’s borderline disturbing watching this man, who started out in the music business never drinking or taking drugs, become enslaved to these powerful drugs. The viewer gets another look at the not so glamorous life of being a rock and roll star.

This DVD is a powerful movie to watch. Not only does it give the viewer a glimpse into the supposed reality of the rock and roll lifestyle, but it also paints a picture of how life can get out of control when there are no set boundaries. Waking Up Dead is certainly no Grammy award winning movie but it is definitely an entertaining and eye opening enough DVD that will appeal to any person who has ever dreamed of being a rock star.

Reviewed by Jeff Holton

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