

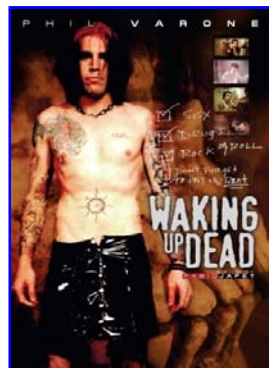
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“It’s not a matter of who’s going to let us, it’s who’s going to stop us?”

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DVD Review –Waking Up Dead

Directed By Fabio Jafet

MVD Visual

Vaguely remember the 80's?, Almost remember bands like Saigon Kick and Skid Row? Trying to forget how embarrassingly big your hair was and how sore your nose got from all that cocaine you snorted? If you answered yes to any of these questions then “Waking Up Dead” is the documentary for you. This unapologetic look at the fast life and almost tragic times of Phil Varone, one time drummer for Saigon Kick and Skid Row, holds nothing back as it explores the decadent rise and almost demise of a would be rock star.

Just as documentarian [Robert Frank](#) and the Rolling Stones did for the 70's with [Cocksucker Blues](#), Emmy award winning journalist and filmmaker shows us the seedy yet perversely fascinating underbelly of one of the most decadent periods of our modern times, the 1980's. Four years in the making, this film explores what it takes to make and subsequently break the most ardent of rock musicians, from hopes and dream to harsh reality and rehab in one fell swoop.

By tracing how the hedonistic and financially unstable lifestyle of a rock musician plays a large part in the destruction of many relationships and families, Jafet offers a first hand look at the plentiful amount of sex and drugs available to any rocker who might wish to indulge, (and I do mean plentiful!) Faced with the choice either to stop doing what he loves the most or to continue on the fast road to the bone yard, Phil Varone gives us a rare and refreshingly candid glimpse of a lifestyle many of us have only dreamt about.

Dreams sometimes turn to nightmares however, but Phil's natural charm and optimistic good humour suffuse this video with enough honesty and heart to satisfy any rock and roll enthusiast. I highly recommend it!

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By [Grimm Culhane](#)

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