

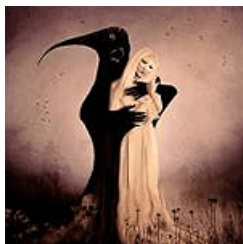
August 13, 2007

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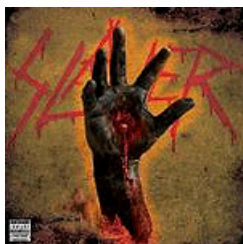
New CD Reviews



Drowning Pool - FULL CIRCLE



The Agonist - ONCE ONLY IMAGINED



Slayer - CHRIST ILLUSION (REISSUE)



Napalm Death - PUNISHMENT IN CAPITALS



S.O.D. - RISE OF THE INFIDELS

Phil Varone - WAKING THE DEAD (MVD)**Phil Varone
WAKING UP DEAD
MVD Video**

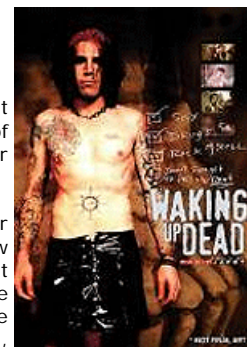
It takes a mighty big man to admit that he suffers from multiple addictions. It takes an even bigger man to face it, and do something about it. Regardless of the reasoning why that person faces it and works to rid themselves from their demons, it's a big step that very few are ever able to take.

Phil Varone, the skilled drummer that found initial success with 80s second tier band Saigon Kick, and moved on to the state fair circuit version of Skid Row (you know, the version that doesn't feature Sebastian Bach), provides the most candid look into the music business that has ever been produced. Not sense THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION: THE METAL YEARS has a movie shown so starkly how dismal the recording industry truly is. That being said, Varone's candid vision of the industry not only showcases that the rumored "sex, drugs and rock n' roll" lifestyle is out there, but proves once and for all that achieving this lifestyle leaves you unfulfilled, destitute, broke, and in metal and physical ruin.

WAKING UP DEAD takes a look at Varone's life over the four year period in which he played drums for Skid Row. While probably not by design when he started making this documentary, WAKING UP DEAD proves Varone to be a completely out of control, selfish, non-responsible piece of shit who would let his family fall apart in order to fuel his drug habit. Let's face it, the rumors about being a "rock star" is that you will get all the sex, all the money, all the drugs and all the fame imaginable...and that will make you happy. In brutal contrast, WAKING UP DEAD not only proves that the sex, drugs and fame are there and ready to be had; but shows how absolutely pathetic and vapid having that truly is. Varone is a virtual Tony Montana with his coke habit. Snorting well over 40 lines of coke on camera, Varone is clearly shown as an insane junkie throughout. Interestingly, it's odd hearing how he was never into any of that as a youth. Saigon Kick's Matt Kramer tells how Varone was the "responsible" one when that band was formed; an optimistic musical visionary who's only goal was to make it big. Clearly, that dream didn't happen. In it's place, the rock n' roll lifestyle took it's root in Varone's life, and left a wake of disgusting desperation. Varone is a fuck up on every level except for the hour a day he plays. He's a junkie. He doesn't make any money (at one point, he showcases how his net worth is \$1.57, while his ex-wife tells stories of how she wouldn't even cash his child support checks because she knew they would bounce). Even more sad is the way Varone's bigger issue, which he always tried to mask with the drugs and the sexual addiction, is that he's simply lonely. It's tragic seeing how he actually had what he was truly looking for (a wife that cared greatly for him, great kids, supportive parents), but pissed it all away trying to add rock superstardom to that list. Finally, after heart spasms caused by his rampant drug usage, Varone saw the light and gave the music business up for good (seemingly).

Probably my favorite part of the movie was the ending. The reason I liked it was because unlike all of these types of movies, Varone doesn't try to end it with some great message of hope for the future. He showcases that some things in his personal life have improved, but leaves it wide open as he wonders allowed what he will do to earn enough money to be a productive human being. Much like life itself, no answers are given.

PITRIFF RATING – 10/10 - Big props to Phil Varone for showing in graphic detail what sex, drugs and rock n' roll truly is; and just how unglamorous and ugly that world truly is for 99% of the people that give music a try. Completely honest in it's vision, you can't help but hate Phil Varone throughout most of the movie, yet be rooting for him to succeed in his life after music when the video ends. Any kid in a basement with a band and a dream should be forced to watch this movie. It's an eye opener if ever there was one.

Added: Sunday, July 22, 2007**Reviewed:** Chris Akin**Score:** ★★★★★**Related Link:** Buy This Release Here!**hits:** 82[[Back to reviews index](#)]



White Wolf - VICTIM OF THE SPOTLIGHT



Ari Koivunen - FUEL FOR THE FIRE



Hatesphere - SERPENT SMILES AND KILLER EYES



Mondo Generator - DEAD PLANET



Korn - UNTITLED



Great White - BACK TO THE RHYTHM



Hellfueled - MEMORIES
IN BLACK



Of Hearts And Shadows -
TOUCHING BASE WITH A
CHAINSAW



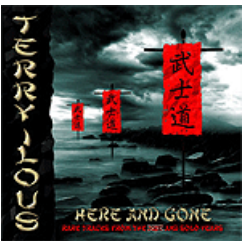
Poets & Pornstars -
POETS & PORNSTARS



Bloodbound - BOOK OF
THE DEAD



King Diamond - GIVE ME
YOUR SOUL...PLEASE



Terry Ious - HERE AND
GONE



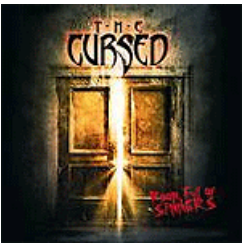
Behemoth - THE APOSTASY



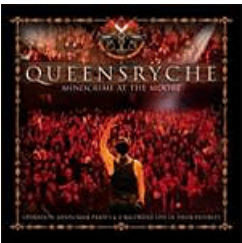
Velvet Revolver - LIBERTAD



SSS - SSS



The Cursed - ROOM FULL OF SINNERS



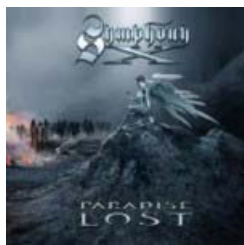
Queensryche - MINDCRIME AT THE MOORE



GMT - BITTER AND TWISTED

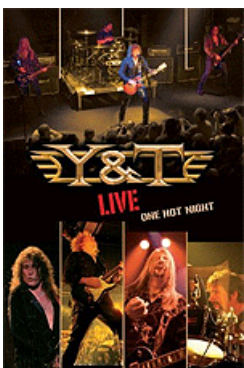


Bon Jovi - LOST HIGHWAY

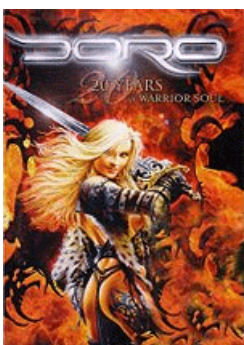


Symphony X - PARADISE LOST

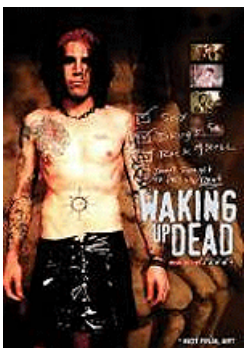
DVD & Book Reviews



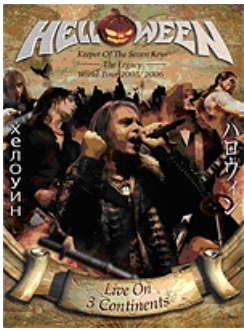
Y&T - LIVE: ONE HOT NIGHT



Doro - 20 YEARS: A WARRIOR SOUL



Phil Varone - WAKING UP DEAD



Helloween - THE
KEEPER OF THE SEVEN
KEYS: THE LEGACY
WORLD TOUR - LIVE ON
3 CONTINENTS



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When Chuck Norris talks, everybody listens. And dies.

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