

REVIEW SCALE

5 – The album is excellent, it could also be considered perfect or near perfect. There may be a few glitches or setbacks, but they are not detrimental.

4 – The album is very good. There aren't too many glitches or setbacks but the ones that are present keep the album from being excellent.

3 – The album is mediocre. While the album is alright, there isn't anything that makes it stand out above other albums. Some of it is good, and some of it needs work.

2 – The album is bad. Many things have gone wrong, and unless it happens to be within your personal favorite genre, chances are it's not even worth your time. The band has a lot to work on.

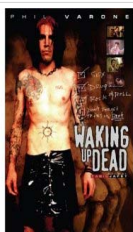
1 – The album is terrible. The album isn't worth your time, no exceptions.

Note: Be aware that in November 2004 the grading scale was revised to how it is shown above in order to maintain more consistencies between our reviewers. Many of the reviews in our Archive may include ½ marks and ¼ marks and please be aware that the ratings at that time were also more open to our reviewers' interpretations of the rating scale, as opposed to this now absolute grading scale which our reviewers are responsible to follow in their rating procedures.

REVIEWS

Waking Up Dead – Sex, Drugs and Rock n' Roll (DVD) - added - June 24th, 2007

Reviewer: **Ruben Mosqueda**



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I think everyone that is a rock fan has fantasized about becoming a rock star at one time or another. Some don't ever get projects of the ground, some lack the talent, some die trying and some get their chance to shine. I always thought that it was hard work, it's got to be, on the road months at a time, little rest and crappy meals. Sure there are perks if your band gets big enough that you get to see the world or this great country without being designated property of the United States government. Like with everything there is a downside there always is, I think this was best described by Blackie Lawless in W.A.S.P.'s rock opera *The Crimson Idol*. Life in the music business isn't all money and bitches as described by in urban music. The music business is a cut throat the lifestyle is hazardous not only to your health but also to the bottom line. And the stressors of maintaining success or fame weigh so heavy that they drive some to spiral out of control.

This brings us to *Waking Up Dead* a documentary by Fabio Jafet an award winning journalist and filmmaker who documents four years in the life performer Phil Varone. Who is Phil Varone you ask? Well he's a drummer who has worked with Saigon Kick, you might recall them from their radio smash "Love is On The Way," back in the 90's, he later went on to work with Prunella Scales with Rachel Bolan of Skid Row, which eventually lead to the gig with Skid Row. Phil has been around the scene for some time and for good reason he's a phenomenal drummer. *Waking Up Dead* could be a companion film to *The Decline of Western Civilization Part II* as that film pales in comparison to the debauchery found here. Varone put himself on the line on this film exposing his lifestyle which includes his addiction to cocaine, wild women, life on the road, financial ruin, divorce, absentee fatherhood, chasing fame or celebrity maintenance, to a turning point where his health lead Varone to either change his lifestyle or continue the downward spiral. This an emotional film, there are times when you feel for the guy, his kids and his ex-wife and times where you find