

VIDEO STUFF

MUSIC

Against Me "We're Never Going Home" (*Fat Wreck Chords, POB 193690, San Francisco, CA 94119-3690*). This is a DVD documentary of one month on tour with one of the best bands, Punk or otherwise, to come along in a very long time. Against Me possesses the kind of energy that bands such as the Clash had in their heyday. They just have "it," whatever that "it" is, and it comes across loud and clear in their repertoire of tunes, many of which are showcased here on *We're Never Going Home*. Some of the highlights of this documentary are watching the band schmooze with douchebag major label personnel, who follow the band across the country buying them lunches and dinners, almost visibly salivating at the possibility of exploiting the band for their own selfish needs. Another enjoyable moment takes place when they interview a number of crusties who go on to explain how Against Me is no better than Anti-Flag, throwing the word "sellout" around as easily as throwing a football. But for myself, the defining centerpiece of this film is without question when Against Me—while at the Asbury Park Surf n' Skate Fest—locks Taking Back Sunday in their dressing room; we hear them scratching and clawing, trying to escape. Against Me then boards Simple Plan's tour bus and raids their liquor cabinet, only to be thrown off the bus until one of them mentions that they are on Fat Wreck Chords, which apparently is like a VIP pass to those crazy Canucks in Simple Plan. Overall, this is a good way to spend an hour of your time while drinking some beers and wishing you were in a band touring the country. (DVD)-**McClernon**

Anti-Flag "Death of A Nation" (*A-F, PO B 71266, Pittsburgh, PA 15213*). This is Anti-Flag's first live DVD and while on the whole the formula is pretty much by the numbers, the viewer **does** get to enjoy a few surprises along the way. Broken into three categories (Live, Special Features, and Propaganda), the live portion of the disc highlights 23 songs, all of varying sound quality, taken from different legs of the band's "Terror State" tour of North America. Their choice of live cuts features tunes taken from their entire repertoire, so if you haven't liked the band since *Die for the Government*, don't fret, you'll have the opportunity to catch a couple selections off that record as well. What I appreciate about the band here is that regardless of venue—whether it's a small club or a sold-out concert hall—the energy that A-F exudes is still the same. As much as I may disagree with a number of things that Justin Sane writes about, they come off genuine here for the most part, though at times you'll witness some Rock Star posturing when Chris #2 screams something like, "Alright Detroit, when I yell 'Fuck,' everybody else scream 'You,'" or some such nonsense. Also, whether or not Justin has cut down on his whining or not, it's difficult to tell, but at least on this DVD, there's more rock and much less preaching, which is certainly a good thing. What you also get here are the "Death of A Nation," "Post-War Breakout," and "Turncoat" videos, the last one being perhaps the most radio-friendly and catchy tune the A-F has ever penned. You also get behind-the-scenes looks into the making of their videos, as well as an interview with the band. All in all, this is a worthwhile purchase, and if you're a fan of the band who maybe hasn't seen these political punkers live yet, this might just whet your appetite for the next time they come to your town. While I prefer the documentary style of the Against Me DVD better than A-F's straightforward approach, you certainly get more than what you pay for here. (DVD)-**McClernon**

Antiseen "The 20 Year Anniversary Show" (*TKO, 8941 Atlanta Ave., #505, Huntington Beach, CA 92646*). Hot damn unholy hell! TKO is now debuting their very first DVD, and it's one heck of a visually stunning spectacle indeed if n I do say so myself. Antiseen caught live by six different cameras during their monstrous 34-song, 20-year anniversary set in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 2003. It's a wrathful and celebratory carnival of carnage, coagulation, and screaming destructo scum havoc. It ain't pretty, and it ain't some sort of thought-provoking artistic statement to be glorified at Cannes, but it's definitely an entertaining, eye-opening experience to behold. Past and present members of the rough and rowdy Antiseen collective participate in this madly festive, free-for-all feast of frenzied, noise-mongering delights. There's blood, burly grit, and loudness galore, so be prepared to cower in the corner like a cold, wet puppy dog with a lopped-off wiener. Best if viewed while heartily ingesting a succulent Southern-style meal of cornbread, venison chili, and sourmash whiskey. (DVD)-**Moser**

Devo "Live In the Land of the Rising Sun" (*Music Video Distributors, POB 280, Oaks, PA 19456*). This has been a great year for Devo fans, with three DVDs released. The first was the out of print laser disc finally, even though they fucked that up by omitting the Jimi Hendrix cover video because of legal issues. The second was the live performance from Irvine Meadows in 1996, and now we have

a live performance from Japan. If you've seen the Irvine show, you know that the band was as Devo as ever, but the total package and quality of that release was a little lacking from Rhino's end. There was little in the way of bonuses, weak packaging, and virtually no promotion for it. This, on the other hand, is done with a lot of love. The video quality is superb. The sound is amazing. The time and effort taken to intersperse interview bits in between just about every song was well-calculated and edited. The raving Japanese fanbase made it all the more impressive as they screamed, danced and sang along. It is exactly what every band wants for every show they ever play. The bonus pieces are good as well; Devo getting interviewed in a subway amidst a packed train, backstage interviews with Jerry and Mark, an excellent interview with David Kendrick about his position in the band, footage of an odd television appearance the band did, and last but not least, a gem from the Target Video vault from 1981. This is a much better live release than what Rhino managed to sling into the market. Here you find the difference between people who work with bands because they love them and people who work with bands to make money off them. This performance really conveys the fact that even after 25 years, they still are D-E-V-O. (DVD)-**Myk**

The Exploited "Beat 'Em All" (*Music Video Distributors, POB 280, Oaks, PA 19456*). The Exploited has only one original member left. Wattie, the braided-mohawk-wearing anarchist who's has become a living embodiment of Chaos Punk really is the Exploited. The band played the Metalmania show in Poland in 2003 in front of 3000 people and let rip with 19 tracks spanning their whole career. Over the years, The Exploited has taken on a more metallic feel, probably as much a sign of the times as it is a switch in the membership, but managed to really deliver on the classics at this show. Songs like "Fuck the System," "Dogs of War," "Let's Start A War," "Sex and Violence" and "Punk's Not Dead" all drive the crowd into a frenzy as they have for some 20 years now. But the newer songs has an interesting effect as well; it was during these songs that the Metal crowd of Poland really stepped in and embraced the band. It turned into a really well-received performance even though the crowd was originally aloof. Wattie is still quite the showman and his voice has held up well over the years. The professional multi-camera shoot is exceptional, and the sound is great. If you're a fan of music DVDs, you won't be disappointed here as this is a high quality release. (DVD)-**Myk**

Slayer "Still Reigning" (*Universal, 825 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10019*). FUCKING SLAYER! Okay, that's the first thing you hear every time you see Slayer live. It also is one of the best quotes from the new DVD released this November. In the bonus material, the band is interviewed and they candidly discuss how Slayer fans can't just say "Slayer"—they have to yell it. This is one of the best backstage pieces the band has done in ages. It also gives some good insight into Dave Lombardo's history with the band, including his departure and rejoining in the recent past. Also, in the bonus footage are six tracks **not** from the *Reign In Blood* album, which is the real focus of this release. The best Thrash album of all time is preformed start to finish, and with between song banter it rings in at 31 minutes. It's perfect, as always, and the band is purely devastating. The multi-camera shoot on this performance is far superior to the NFL Films version from *Live Intrusion*. Slayer is more a force of nature at this point than a Metal band. The real highlight though is the introduction of the "Wall of Blood." Hundreds of gallons of theatrical stage blood are forced through a sprinkler system onto the stage and band during the finale, which of course was the track "Raining Blood." The band doesn't need to be more over the top; they proved a long time ago they **are** the top. No fan of Slayer can do without this. Even audiophiles have to recognize the unreleased recording that makes up this performance. Like there is a Slayer release you can do without anyway? (DVD)-**Myk**

VIA "Peepshow III: A Compilation of Videos, Interviews, and Idiocy!" (*Fat Wreck Chords, POB 193690, San Francisco, CA 94119*). There's nothing like watching a bunch of bands I can't stand and don't care about posing in music videos interspersed with dull home movies that are supposed to be witty. As far as I'm concerned, NOFX and Fat Wreck Chords are responsible for the crap that passes for Punk Rock on MTV, i.e., Yellowcard, Simple Plan, Good Charlotte, Blink 182, etc. Watching them and bands of their ilk only reminds me of why I hate them so much. Even the Subhumans segment is disappointing—a live version of "New Age" from *The Day the Country Died*, my least favorite Subhumans album. You can't please everybody. (DVD)-**chuck.foster**