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Decasia (2002/Icarus Blu-ray)/Hard Core Logo (1996/MVD/VSC Blu-ray)/Lady Antebellum: Own The Night World Tour (2012/Eagle Blu-ray)

Picture: B- Sound: B-
/C+/B- Extras: C-/C+/C+
Main Programs: C+

Here is a look at the latest music releases...

When Bill Morrison's **Decasia** arrived in 2002, it was something different. In the midst of our film heritage being restored and too much of it lost or being lost (still to this day, sadly), he made a film out of nondescript film print materials that were decaying and set them to a music score by Michael Gordon that managed to be an indie film hit. We first looked at the film years ago in its DVD debut at this link:

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/1205/Decasia:+The+State+Of+Decay>

Though I was not as big a fan, I still thought it was an interesting, well done idea and since then, it has become famous enough among film fans and has also become somewhat imitated. The commercial side of this has been usually awful "found footage" projects (mostly bad would-be Horror films) where that footage is fake. Here, it is all too real and as ironic as it is even sad. At only 67 minutes, that is an impressive accomplishment just the same and is more effective in this new Blu-ray edition.

Being able to see the footage better, especially the way the film is deteriorating further emphasizes the point of human mortality and memory fading and dying as analog to the film fading and crumbling. The only thing the work cannot show is the film catching fire if it is nitrate. The connection works and especially in our newly arrived era of often generic and too often degraded digital video images, **Decasia** takes on a new

unintended meaning that has a new value the makers could not have imagined a decade ago. If you have never seen it, this is the way to go.

The only extra is Morrison's 2004 8-minutres-long short **Light Is Calling**.

Next we have the Canadian Punk Rock satire **Hard Core Logo** (1996) arriving on Blu-ray with its recent 2010 sequel **Hard Core Logo 2** as a bonus. As a sort of flip-side to **This Is Spinal Tap**, the ever-swearing, loud, obnoxious and even clueless and egotistical band reunites to help a punk rocker friend to raise funds after he has been shot. A favorite of Quentin Tarantino, who released it himself at one point, it is a worth companion to **This Is Spinal Tap** but its comedy is less obvious and though it has more interesting moments than I expected, has its limits as just exceeding being a one-joke film. The sequel is more of the same and maybe not as good as the first, as expected.



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 (2011/Reclusion/Music Video
 Distributors DVD)
 > Sugar Mommas (2012
 Telefilm/One Village
 Entertainment/Image DVD)

Extras for both films include a single feature length audio commentary track for each and their respective Original Theatrical Trailers. The first film adds a Music Video and excerpt from the book based on this film, while the sequel adds bonus Blu-ray footage not seen anywhere else and a featurette.

Finally we have an authentic documentary in **Lady Antebellum: Own The Night World Tour** (2012) which has full length song concert performances with longer-than-expected interviews and behind-the-scenes pieces that tend to be smoother and warmer than you would usually see in such music programs. The trio is one of Country Music's more credible and talented acts playing very well together, but they also are on the lite side and are not exactly groundbreaking.

The main program has 13 songs, plus five bonus tracks, including one with the obnoxious Darius Rucker of the ever-awful Hootie & The Blowfish. This is a for-fans-only affair, but shows the trio to best advantage. A nicely illustrated booklet on the program with informative technical text and a brief note is included in the Blu-ray case.

The 1080p 1.33 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on **Decasia** would usually rate as awful because the footage is wearing away as you watch, but since that is the point in this case, I will rate it as pretty good (it is usually black and white for the most part) and base my rating on how film like the footage looks. The 1080p 1.85 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on both **Logo** films have their share of detail issues as it is intended to look rough and authentic. That is faked of course and the first film has its share of faded film images, but they are just fine for what they are intended to be and like **Decasia**, I cannot image these looking any better, especially as they are intentionally not meant to offer state of the art performance by design.

The 1080i 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image on **Lady** includes some older analog NTSC video footage and never footage has some detail issues, plus Video Black can be an issue in some shots. That puts it on par with the other releases on this list.

All three Blu-rays have DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mixes with the **Logo** films sounding rougher (intentionally) down to the music and location audio recordings of the "band" members. **Decasia** has instrumental music throughout and it can be quiet in nature, but definitely outperforms its DVD counterpart sonically. **Lady** also has location audio and older monophonic or simple stereo audio, while the concert songs sound the best, the overall soundfield tends towards the front speakers. It still has some good music moments.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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