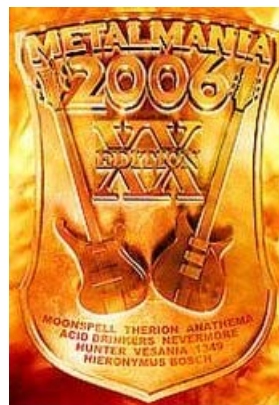




METALMANIA 2006
(2005) Music Video Distributors
 160 Minutes \$24.99
 Region 1
 Video: Full Frame (1.33.1)
 Audio: Dolby Digital 2.0 and 5.1
 Subtitles: None
 Packaging: Keepcase
 Chapter Stops: 23



Poland's Metal Mind Productions and Music Video Distributors join forces once again to bring one of Europe's premiere heavy music festivals to DVD for the metal-deprived North American audience. This event, held in Poland each year since 1985, is called METALMANIA and hosts some of the world's finest young metal talents combined with veteran acts. Like many European festivals, these shows have become a melting pot of various hard music styles including Gothic, Punk, Progressive, Power, Black & Death metal. Meanwhile, back in the u.s. we get the same tired Ozzfest with the same old roster of bands (how many times can we possibly sit thru crap like KORN, DISTURBED, SLIPNOT, and their ilk), while Europe is home to some of the most mind-blowing musical festivals ever imagined (such as WACKEN, AARDSHOCK, DONNINGTON etc.). Little attention is paid by promoters or the press here, but that is beginning to change with the emergence of what I have coined, 'the Festival Disc'. What constitutes a Festival Disc you ask? Basically, these all-day music festivals ranging from 6 to 12 hours are condensed and re-edited to showcase the best songs and performances of each band in the event. The end result is a DVD that gives the viewer and taste of what these bands and festivals are all about. These Festival Discs are beginning to become commonplace in Europe, but Metal Mind Productions has released several such titles for North American consumption. METALMANIA 2006 contains the entire line-up of Poland's 1996 METALMANIA event:

BELPHEGOR - *Seyt Todt in Swartz*
 HEIRONYMOUS BOSCH - *The Apogee*
 HEIRONYMOUS BOSCH - *Blind Window Stare*
 VESANIA - *Marduke's Mesmerizing*
 ACID DRINKERS - *Human Bazooka*
 ACID DRINKERS - *Life Hurts*
 ACID DRINKERS - *I Fuck the Violence*
 ACID DRINKERS - *Dawn of Flagellation*
 HUNTER - *Plythki Dolek*
 1349 - *Satantic Propaganda*
 1349 - *Chasing Dragons*
 1349 - *Nanicana*
 SHADOWSLAND - *Energy of Masses*
 ANTIGAMA - *The View*
 TOTEM - *Thrash the South*
 CORRUPTION - *99% EVIL*
 THE NO-MADS - *Mercyful Hate*
 ARCHERON - *Prayer*
 CENTINEX - *Victorious Dawn Rising*
 SUIDAKRA - *The IXth Legion*
 MISANTHROPE - *Stud Farm*
 BESEECH - *Inner Lane*
 THE OLD DEAD TREE - *Out of Breath*
 NEVERMORE - *Enemies of Reality*
 NEVERMORE - *Heart Collector*
 NEVERMORE - *Final Product*
 MOONSPELL - *Awake*
 MOONSPELL - *Opium*
 MOONSPELL - *Moonshade*
 THERION - *Siren of the Woods*

THERION - *Asgard*
 THERION - *Seven Secrets of the Sphinx*
 ANATHEMA - *A Natural Disaster*
 ANATHEMA - *Balance*
 ANATHEMA - *Closer*

As usual, Metal Mind promotes mostly its own sad roster of death metal bands with Oscar the Grouch vocals (like BELPHEGOR, VESANIA, ARCHERON, CENTINEX, and 1349 (yes, someone out there was dumb enough to name their band after a 'year').). Last years edition of METALMANIA was mostly all Death Metal morons. The original METALMANIA 2003 was superior because in addition to the generic bands, were worthy performances from the likes of SAXON, OPETH, ANATHEMA, and DELIGHT. Well, Metal Mind productions must have heard my advice, because this edition they actually recruited more hard rockers who can actually play and compose quality music like NEVERMORE, MOONSPELL, ANATHEMA, with the mighty THERION headlining making METALMANIA 2006 the best one yet. Ironically, Metal Mind designed this festival to show off their bands, but its the non-label acts like ANATHEMA and THERION that make this DVD worth your money! The THERION performance alone is worth the price the vocalist for their set is Sarah Jezebel Diva from ANGTORIA and CRADLE OF FILTH fame!

The folks at Metal Mind Productions sank a lot of money into the filming and production of this DVD. The METAL MANIA 2006 show was shot on real film using professional multi-camera set-ups which buzz around the performers on stage making for a truly memorable visual presentation. The kinetic camera work captures each song with eye-pleasing angles and tracking shots over the not only the bands, but the audience as well. The show is presented in 1.33.1 format; the image is very movie-like, with crisp clarity and image depth. METAL MANIA 2004 comes with Dolby Digital 2.0 and 5.1 audio options, both of which exhibit crystal clear fidelity and superb bass. The DD 5.1 has superior depth and sound imaging off course. From the Special Features menu, you can view detailed textual overviews of the history of each band on this disc. There is another interesting text based option that examines in detail the history of Poland's METALMANIA festival, including the bands who played at each show. There is also a Photo Gallery of the bands that played at METALMANIA 2006. You can access some desktop images as well. Metal Mind Productions also includes an accompanying audio CD featuring their other acts that were not in the festival like ASGAARD, CENTURION, and SPINAL CORD.

The METALMANIA 2006 festival is the best one yet, and technically I think it has the biggest production value as well, since the video and sound quality on this DVD is superior to previous releases. This disc also excels beyond the poorly conceived DVDs from the likes of Metal Blade, Nuclear Blast, or Century Media labels. Quite simply, this 'festival disc' kicks ass.

[METALMANIA 2006 is available from DVDEmpire.com](http://www.DVDEmpire.com)

-- Jason the Mason

Movie:	2.5
Video:	4.5
Audio:	4.0
Extras:	2.0
Overall:	3.0

BACK TO



[MUSIC DVD REVIEW INDEX](#)

[DVDCULT HOME](#)