

**Short Sharp Shock**  
Earache

Liverpool's Short Sharp Shock bring heat and punkish glee to old-school thrash on their full-length debut. Speed, youth, and dexterity give each song a forward momentum that's addictive as well as flat-out entertaining. This crew, along with their mates in Daymares,

realizes that half the charm of early '80s crossover bands like D.R.I. and S.O.D. was their wink, nod, and general spirit of unbridled mayhem. Thrash and speed metal would lose some of that over the years in favor of increased technicality and a decidedly more dour worldview. Which was cool too, but sometimes you just want to kick back with the beer-soaked pub rhythms and bully boy oil-inspired gang shout exuberance of a band like SSS. The sweet and satisfying riff attack of a song like "Overload" makes you remember that a band can kick ass, rock out, remain heavy, and still find time to skate 'til they die.

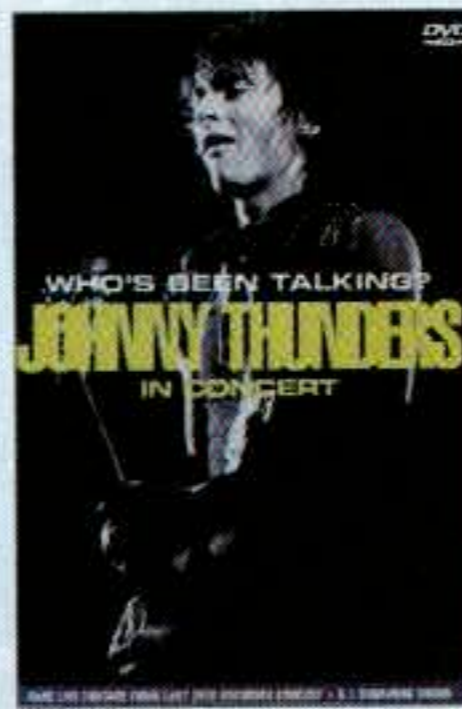
—Scott Seward



claiming in distress...of a scientist racing against time to find a miracle cure. I bet these lads spent many an hour practicing their scales in the cozy confines of their bedrooms. And judging from all the potentially finger-spraining instrumental gymnastics throughout *Anima*, it's paid off handsomely for them. —Greg Prato

**JOHNNY THUNDERS**  
**Who's Been Talking?**  
MVD

No rocker made a career out of being gloriously wasted like Johnny Thunders. A co-founder of proto-punk glamsters the New York Dolls, his raucous guitar work inspired hordes of admirers to pick up the instrument. Additionally, his mile-high heavily sprayed hair would be imitated countless times over — especially by '80s glam acts (Nikki Sixx, anyone?). His appetite for drugs has been extensively documented over the years — both in his song "Chinese Rocks" and in tales told by others — so his drug-related death in April



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1991 didn't exactly come as a surprise.

But this live DVD shows that Thunders was more musically focused than he'd been in ages right before he died. Filmed in Japan three weeks before his passing, the guitarist is joined by an extremely Stones-y backing band. Strong readings of "Pipeline," "Born To Lose," and the Dolls' "Personality Crisis" make this a fitting send-off for an underground legend. —Greg Prato

**TWISTED SISTER**  
**The Video Years**  
Rhino



Twenty years after their initial run of popularity, the video history of Twisted Sister is now available on DVD. *The Video Years* features seven clips from between 1983 and 1987, plus the 1982 live UK

television appearance that won the band a contract with Atlantic and an hour-long 1984 concert. Aside from nostalgia and the availability of the UK footage, the most enjoyable aspect of the disc is the commentary that precedes each chapter. The members' candor provides interesting perspectives on a career unfairly defined by the videos for "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock." Bassist Mark Mendoza maintains that those clips pigeonholed them as silly, and the entire band agrees that "Leader Of The Pack" was a mistake.

for both Saigon Kick (during their heyday) and Skid Row (post-Sebastian Bach era). Over a four-year period, we learn that Varone's a family man, but can't say no to his rock 'n' roll dreams — which



results in a divorce, difficulty making ends meet, and a deadly cocaine habit. Varone lets the camera film his paltry bank statement to show that it's not exactly easy making money as a musician. While Varone has some valid points to make about the shady dealings of the music biz, he often comes off like a Spinal Tap-ish goon — not bashful about snorting coke or showing off his latest groupie conquest on camera. —Greg Prato

**WINDS**  
**Prominence And Demise**  
The End

*Prominence And Demise*, the third full-length release by Norway's Winds, sounds pretty much what you'd expect a



prog metal release to sound like circa the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. There's lots of 'light and shade' (in other words, chugga-chugga-chug heavy riffing giving way to tranquil breaks) tricky