

Rambler clearly have a soft spot for Iron Maiden-esque guitar harmonies. As with most bands following a similar game plan to August Burns Red, variety isn't the main idea – most of the songs tread on common ground. No, no, no, the intention's to pulverize the listener with metal from beginning to end, and start as many violent mosh pits as possible. And August Burns Red definitely accomplishes those goals with this album. –Greg Prato

## BLOODSIMPLE

**Red Harvest**  
Bullygoat/Reprise

**B**loodsimple flaunted metalcore musician-ship on their 2005 debut *A Cruel World*, but while they clung to the traditional hard-hitting pattern, they had a fistful of ideas they were aching to unveil.



Consequently, their sophomore set, *Red Harvest* displays quite a bit of growth. They instinctively stick to the usual bass-thumping, drum-pounding, hypnotic guitar riffs and sinister lyrical themes on tracks like “Dark Helmet” and “Dead Man Walking.” Occasionally, though, Bloodsimple spruces up their slightly repetitive formula by intertwining choppy riffs, as on “Suck It Up” and “Killing Time.” They even make a pleasant crossover attempt with the pop-rock ballad “Truth,” wherein vocalist Tim Williams tenderly sings about seeking peace of mind. Sometimes the sound gets too basic – and Williams is to blame for that. He shouldn't play narrator on “Ride With Me” and “Whiskey Bent And Hellbound.” Those efforts are frail. Without those clusterfucks, *Red Harvest* would have been badass.

–Bear Frazer

## CACTUS

**Fully Unleashed: The Live Gigs, Vol. II**

Rhino Handmade

**T**his is a limited edition of 5000 copies, so you've probably missed out already – America's grizzled boogie-rock lifers

drooled over

Rhino

Handmade's two previous Cactus collections, and this one's bound to send 'em into similar frenzies.

A document of the band's last

gig with its original four members (plus second guitarist Ron Leejack), it's a head-crushing marathon of early '70s ultra-hard blues-rock. Unfamiliar with Cactus? Imagine a cross between ZZ Top circa *Tres Hombres* and Blue Cheer circa *Vincebus Eruptum*, and you've got it. In the studio, they were hit-and-miss; each of their four albums had a few gems, and a few half-formed jams. But live, they stretched songs to the 12- and sometimes the 20-minute mark, with epic solos by guitarist Jim McCarty and drummer Carmine Appice, while bassist Tim Bogert thundered beneath and vocalist Rusty Day (RIP) howled and blew harp on top. Heavy as hell, and crucial. –Phil Freeman

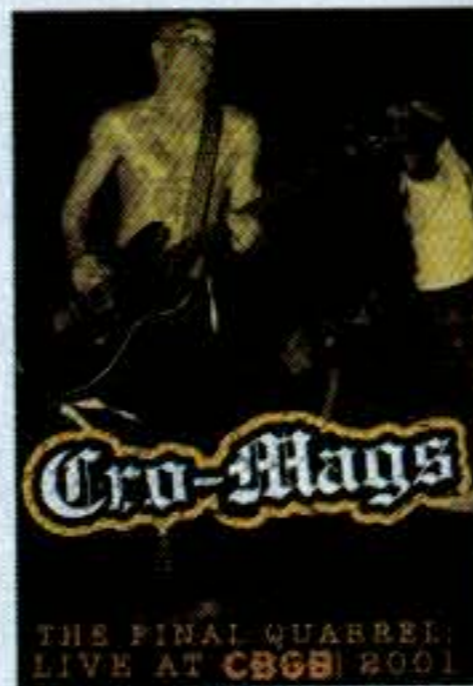


## CRO-MAGS

**Final Quarrel: Live At CBGB 2001**

MVD Visual

**C**ro-Mags was one of the first and best NYC bands to seamlessly merge hardcore and metal, and their 1986 debut, *The Age Of Quarrel*, single-handedly paved the way for all the metalcore acts you see all over Fuse and *Headbanger's Ball* nowadays. Various line-up configurations toured and recorded under the Cro-Mags banner during the 1990s, but in 2001, singer John Joseph and bassist Harley Flanagan buried the hatchet and found themselves back on stage. *Final Quarrel: Live At CBGB 2001*, despite being shot on a single camera, captures all the fury and fire the band (which included ex-Suicidal Tendencies guitarist Rocky George at the time) was always



known for – especially on such classics as “World Peace,” “Street Justice,” and “We Gotta Know.” With a healthy amount of bonus material tacked on (including a full set by Flanagan's post-Mags band, Harley's War), *Final Quarrel* is a must-buy for hardcore fans everywhere. –Greg Prato

## DANZIG

**The Lost Tracks Of Danzig**  
Evilive

**S**ay what you want about Glenn Danzig, but you can't call the man lazy. After jumping from his former label, American,



and launching his own record company (Evilive), the amount of Danzig-related releases only increased. Still, plenty of tracks have gone unused over the years – and it's this rare material that comprises this recently released two-CD set. For those wondering which ‘solo Danzig eras’ the 26-track set covers, the answer is simple – all of them! The compilation gathers tracks from sessions for Danzig's classic self-titled 1988 debut, all the way to outtakes from his last band recording, 2004's *Circle Of Snakes*. While there were obviously good reasons that a few of these offerings were originally left on the cutting room floor, quite a few, especially tracks from Disc One like “When Death Had No Name” and “Angel Of The 7<sup>th</sup> Dawn,” could have easily fit on the official albums. –Greg Prato

## EVE TO ADAM

**Queens To Eden**  
KDS Music Group

**F**or good or ill, some of the most influential rock music came from the early '90s, when Nirvana, Stone Temple Pilots and Soundgarden took grunge up the charts. Eve To Adam has a somewhat grunge-reminis-

