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dvd reviews

this is black metal

VITAL REMAINS

Live Evil Death
(MVD)

THIS IS BLACK METAL

Former Gang Bang Queen
presents...
(MVD)

DARK FUNERAL

Atteral Orbis Terrarun
(Regain)

DRUM WARS

The Ultimate Battle:
Carmine & Vinny Appice
(MVD)

HATED

GG ALLIN & The Murder
Junkies
(MVD)

JOHNNY THUNDERS

Who's Been Talking?
(MVD)

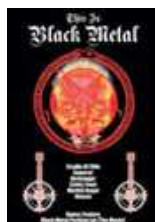
THE MENTORS

EI Duce Vita
(MVD)

WAKING UP DEAD

The Pitfalls of Drumming for
Scumbags.
(MVD)

MORE REVIEWS



THIS IS BLACK METAL

Former Gang Bang Queen presents...
(MVD)



I hope this release is the first in a series of black metal DVD's. Although what we get is an uneven mix of established (Emperor and Satyricon), legendary (Venom and Celtic Frost) and fairly unknown acts (Throes of Dawn and Astarte) the end result is a pretty comprehensive overview of some of black metal's most important bands. With this in tow, the producers of this show would be wise to expand on the growing genre and delve deeper into some of the more adventurous bands out there. Black metal is nowadays blooming like never before, and the extent to which current artists are going was unforeseen only a handful of years ago. Of all the bands included here, none truly lend themselves to that.

This is Black Metal presents videos, live shots and band interviews along with a few extras. Oddly, it is all kept together by former gang bang queen Jasmin St Claire; who for the most part asks pretty generic questions but surprisingly ends up with well-rounded and informative interviews. Particularly good is the segment with Celtic Frost where Tom Gabriel Fischer and Martin Eric Ain show that they speak English better than most Americans and offer insights into their beliefs, their knowledge of the occult and what transpired with the band from the time of their break up through their resurgence with the devastating come back album *Monotheist*. Slightly more entertaining but less informative is the interview with British legends Venom, where we learn that their influential sloppy brand of black metal is the result of mixing The Beatles with Elvis. Who would have thought?

St. Claire still has ways to go as a host, but has good diction, displays confidence, humor and true interest in the genre. She'll do well to discard the cue cards she uses for questions, and ridding of certain mannerisms (when answering questions from Venom her eyes go up like she is seeking for some type of divine enlightenment) will help her professionally. The extra segment where St Claire answers questions about herself is good only for those interested in what she has to say. Outside of This is Black Metal we can find the Black Metal Parking Lot short; where St. Claire interviews the colorful crowd at a Los Angeles Cradle of Filth show; there is the girl with the lisp that was introduced to heavy music by a former boyfriend, the ex con with a dead girlfriend who is a personal friend of Dani and is prone to slash himself, the account broker with fancy color contacts who says 'fuck Anton La Vey, traditional Satanism rules', the teenage Satanic Latinos who get censored perhaps for being too young, the chunky goth metal chick who is looking for a band, etc. Through quick editing we get a very interesting inside view at this growing fanbase; all fanatical, all young, all very much into Dani Filth and the music. Looking forward for a second installment.

...not your mother's music



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