

DVD Reviews

ASIA - Live In Tokyo

Eagle Vision

Man, when it comes to progressive rock DVDs, hands down as Asia's "Live In Tokyo" is excellent due to its multi-angle camera views of the band's performance and in-depth, lengthy interviews with all four founding members. Bassist/singer John Wetton, guitarist Steve Howe, drummer Carl Palmer and keyboardist Geoff Downs are solid performers on tape and in a live setting. A few classics such as "One Step Closer", "Don't Cry", "Ride Easy", "Heat Of the Moment" and the early 80s MTV favorite "Video Killed The Radio Star" makes this DVD a must have. A running time of 155 minutes makes this the most comprehensive DVD on Asia's reunion as a band and their rich musical history. -Sarjoo Devani

DEICIDE - Domsday L.A.

Earache

Decide not only put on one of their best live performances but decimated Los Angeles, California with the unholy spirit crushing power of "Dead By Dawn", "The Stench Of Redemption", "Dead But Dreaming", "Homage For Satan" and the cult classic "Sacrificial Suicide". Glenn and company have got the crowd all revved up by creating major pit warfare and stage diving frenzy. Despite some killer unsettling moments of a priest's zombification by a deranged lunatic on the video for "Homage For Satan", this DVD also comprised of 20 killer cuts from Tampa's twisted bunch is a hellish addition to your collection of Decide's weapon of religious debauchery. Let your ears and eyes bleed. -Sarjoo Devani

VADER - And Blood Was Shed In Warsaw

Metal Mind Productions

Anyone who knows Vader knows that the only thing better than a Vader disc is a Vader concert. With "And Blood Was Shed In Warsaw", fans are handed what could/should be considered the penultimate Vader concert, packed to the brim with 21 tracks (counting the intros) spanning the band's 25 year career, covering over ninety minutes of music filmed with seven different cameras. Also recorded in Dolby 5.1 surround sound, those fans able to hear and view the DVD to its full effect should be adequately stunned by the superb sound quality. For a death metal DVD production, it doesn't get any better than this. Vader, as always, are consummately perfect in their delivery, reiterating with each song exactly why their's is one of the greatest legacies in the history of the death metal genre. -Brian Davis

DARK FUNERAL - Attera Orbis Terrarum part 1

Regain

Sweden's black metal elitist commando squad Dark Funeral is back with its first full length DVD. This is comprised of three professionally produced concert footage taking place in Tilburg, Netherlands, Katowice, Poland and Paris, France, and as a bonus you get with this two DVD set a rear look at Dark Funeral's first ever gig in Oslo, Norway in 1994, before they were even signed. The only disappointing aspect about this DVD was the fact that it does not contain any band interviews as this would have been one of the many highlights here as Dark Funeral is quite a controversial band. The songs featured here span the band's entire catalogue with cuts from "The Secrets Of The Black Arts", "Vobiscum Satanas", "Diabolis Intercum", "Attera Totus Sanctus" as well as their first ep. -Sarjoo Devani

DRUM WARS: The Ultimate Battle Carmine & Vinny Appice

MVD

Seeing the two Appice brothers (both excellent drummers and known the world over) duking it out at the Roxy Club in Hollywood, California is something. Carmine wants to show his younger sibling who is the master percussionist while Vinny, having played with the likes of Dio, Black Sabbath and John Lennon has put up a fight of his life as a professional drummer and to defend his name behind the kit. Unfortunately, this contest having supposed to be judged by older brother Frank Appice does not find the clear winner as Frank decides not attend their drum war competition in Hollywood. This documentary and the WWF Wrestling style 50 minute video of both brothers is funny at times but very exciting to watch their creative and killer drumming tactics. Hopefully there will be a part 2 to this war and I will be in line to see the two go at it again for the best drummer throne. -Sarjoo Devani

Rat Skates - Born In The Basement

MVD

Rat Skates knows the meaning of this scene he started because he was one. Back before there was thrash or any of the metal that is well known today, there was the New York City underground as well as the impending NWOBHM. Rat and his future cohorts in Overkill were working on the sound that would launch a thousand other bands that would never come close to their ferocity. This DVD, "Born In A Basement", chronicles the rise of Rat as he assembled different incarnations of his bands before he found the one that would launch Overkill to Notoriety. The DVD includes clips of early live shows, an in depth interview with Rat along with rare early interviews. If you grew up in the original thrash scene this will bring back memories and if you are just discovering it, this is your bible. -Jeffrey Easton

