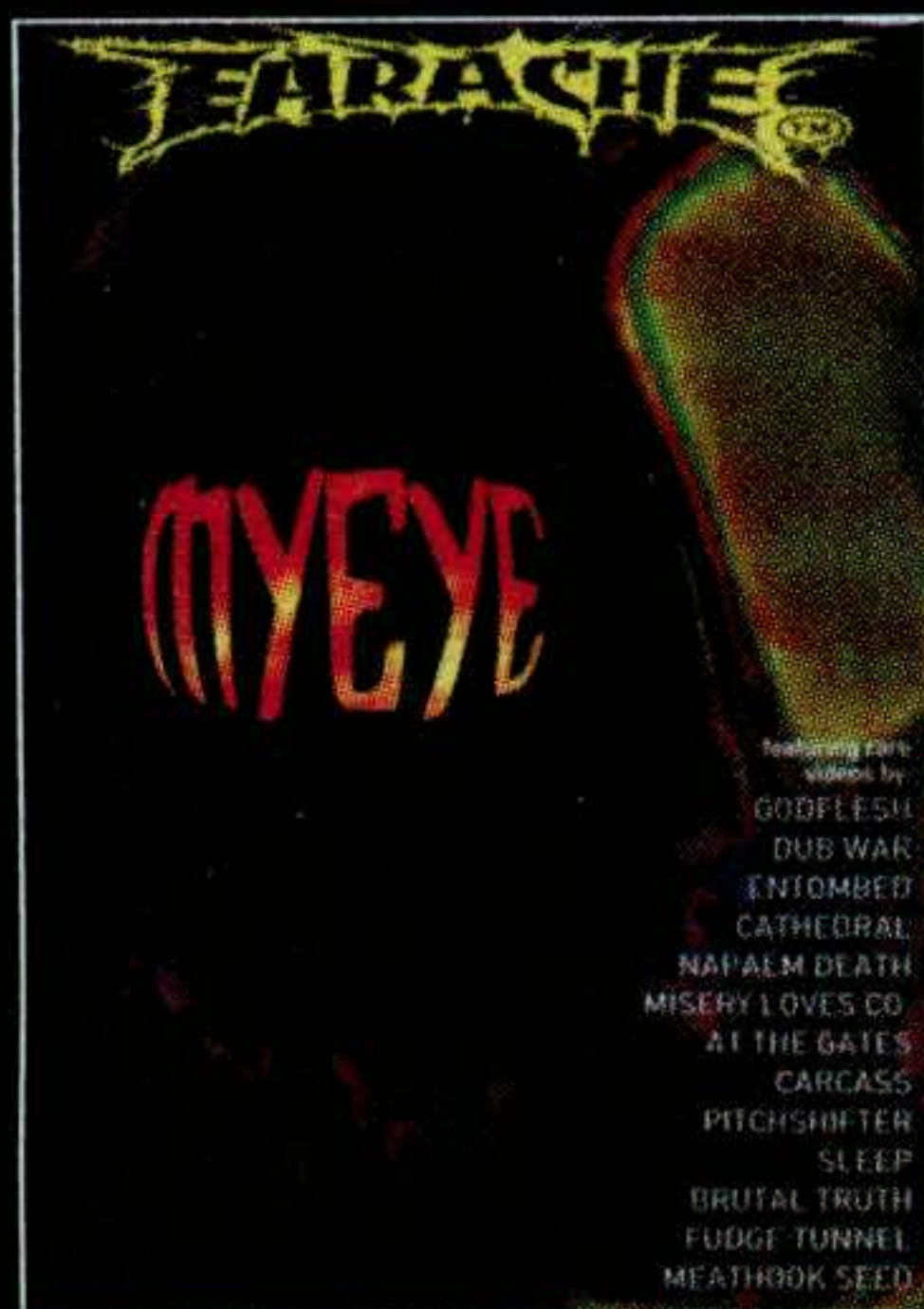
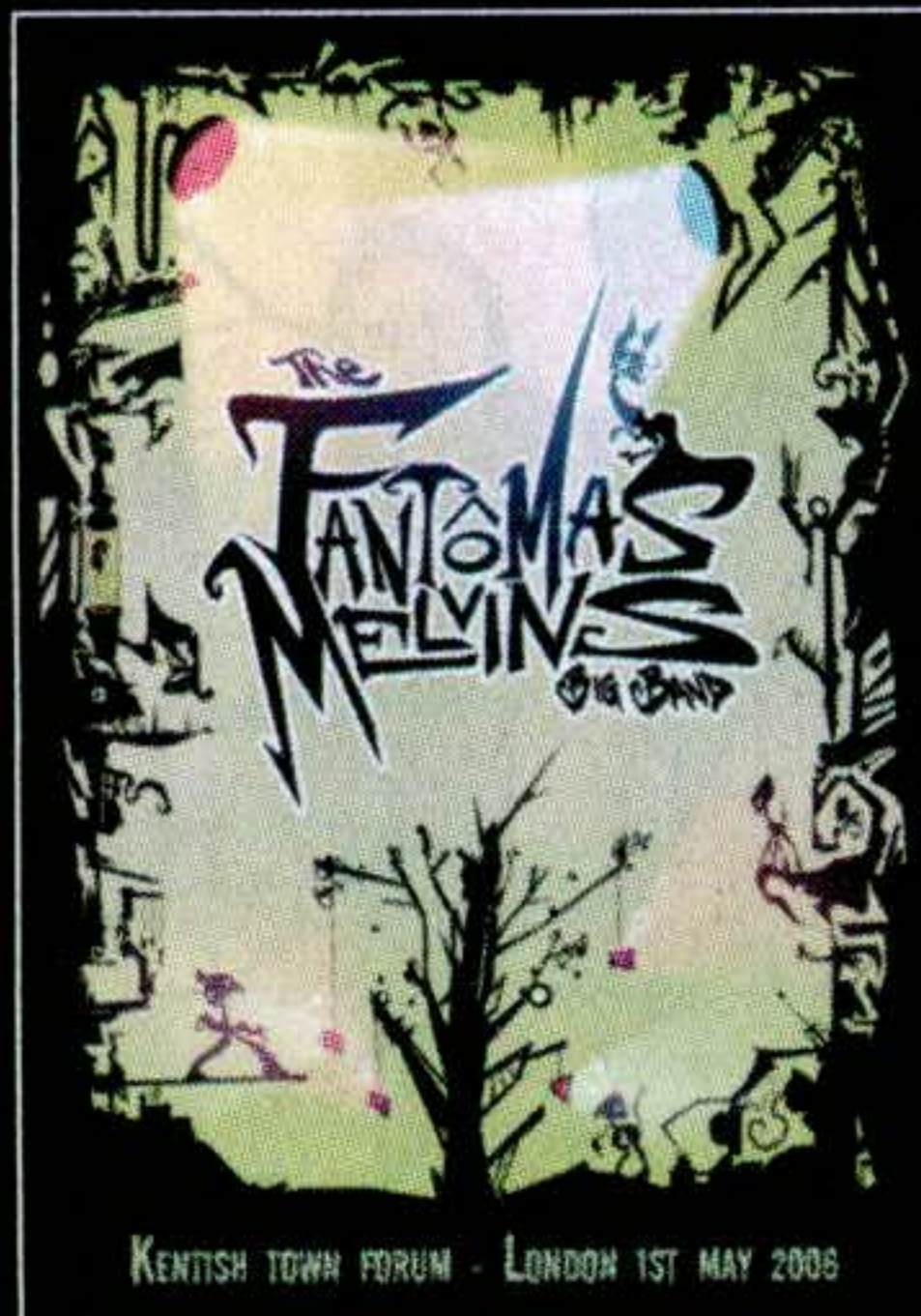


# OPTICAL DISILLUSION



## Various Artists Earache My Eye MVD Visual

In the late '80s and early '90s, Earache Records — founded by Digby Pearson — was the UK's premier death metal label. After establishing themselves as a brand name you could trust, in 1989 Earache issued *Earache My Eye* on VHS, consisting of videos from 13 of their biggest bands. Now, almost 20 years later, that compilation is available on DVD for the first time. Sadly, it's a straight transfer from tape to disc. Nothing has been added. No extra interviews or bonus footage are included. The opportunity to make this a truly special release was missed entirely. But, two of the bands featured are even more relevant today than they were nearly two decades ago — namely At The Gates and Carcass. Both are on sold-out reunion tours, proving their unique takes on metal are truly timeless. Sabbath worship is present with Cathedral and Sleep. Entombed lay down their classic "Wolverine Blues" and Napalm Death serve up a tasty treat in the form of "Greed Killing." Long forgotten raga metal outfit Dub War are represented via "Strike It," which is in direct contrast to the industrial sounds of Misery Loves Co. and Pitchshifter. Rounding out the collection are clips from Godflesh, Brutal Truth, Fudge Tunnel and Meathook Seed. With a total running time of only 60 minutes, *Earache My Eye* is a nifty trip down memory lane. But with the majority of these videos easily accessible on YouTube, there isn't any urgency to run out and buy this. Furthermore, the Godflesh, Entombed, Cathedral, At The Gates and Sleep clips are replicated on *Earache Immortalized*, initially released on DVD in 2000 and coincidentally also reissued this year. At least *Immortalized* contains exclusive live clips and band bios as bonus footage. [earache.com] — Aaron Small



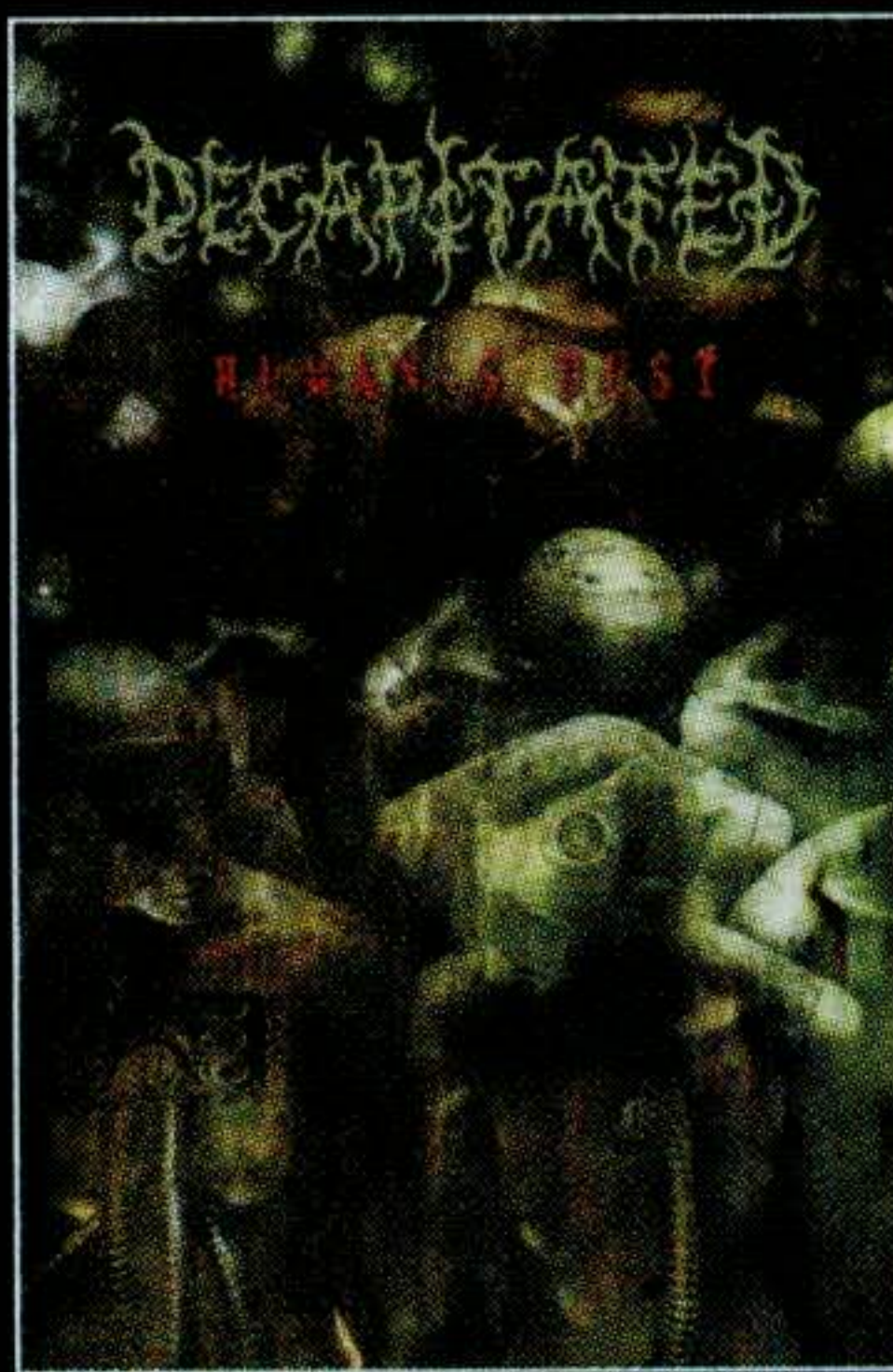
## The Fantômas Melvins Big Band Live From London 2006 Ipecac

This DVD captures the pairing of the Fantômas and Melvins, along with Sir David Scott Stone on guitar and the noisemaking "electric long thin wire," at the Kentish Town Forum in

London in front of 2,000 people, some of which were probably asking in the pre-gig queue if there was a chance the Big Band would do any Faith No More tunes as part of their set. Trust me, shit like this still gets uttered to this day. There may not be any "Epic," "Falling To Pieces" or "Be Aggressive," but there is a cover of War's "Low Rider," which likely went over like a cultural lead balloon with the English audience, and a couple of Fantômas soundtrack renditions ("The Omen," "Cape Fear") scattered among the dark ambient soothe of their *Delirium Cordia* material, the cartoon craziness of *Suspended Animation* and various rocking thunder claps from the Melvins' extensive discography. The DVD is professionally shot and edited with the cuts matching up to the pace of the music. For instance, the spazzy material gets treated to rapid-fire edits and off-kilter camera positioning, while more straight-ahead rocking stuff and full-on noise excursions are accompanied by longer shots, smoother bleeds and wipes and less visual herk and jerk. Sometimes there are post-production tricks added in to gussy up the final product (hieroglyphics, animation, overlaid haze etc.) or in

spaces where not much of anything is happening on-screen, like during "Sacrifice."

However, it's the audio commentary you should all be checking this out for, as it includes Ipecac co-owner Greg Werckman, the man responsible Robby Fraser, Dale and Buzz from the Melvins and Danny-fucking-DeVito! How and why DeVito got in on this is a mystery — he's introduced as The Big Band's manager, but apparently he's just a really big fan and pals with Werckman and Mike Patton — but you can imagine the hilarious tales and sarcastic wisecracks that'd ensue if this quintet got together at a diner, let alone a conversation you were able to access and eavesdrop on with the touch of a button. [ipeccac.com] — Kevin Stewart-Panko

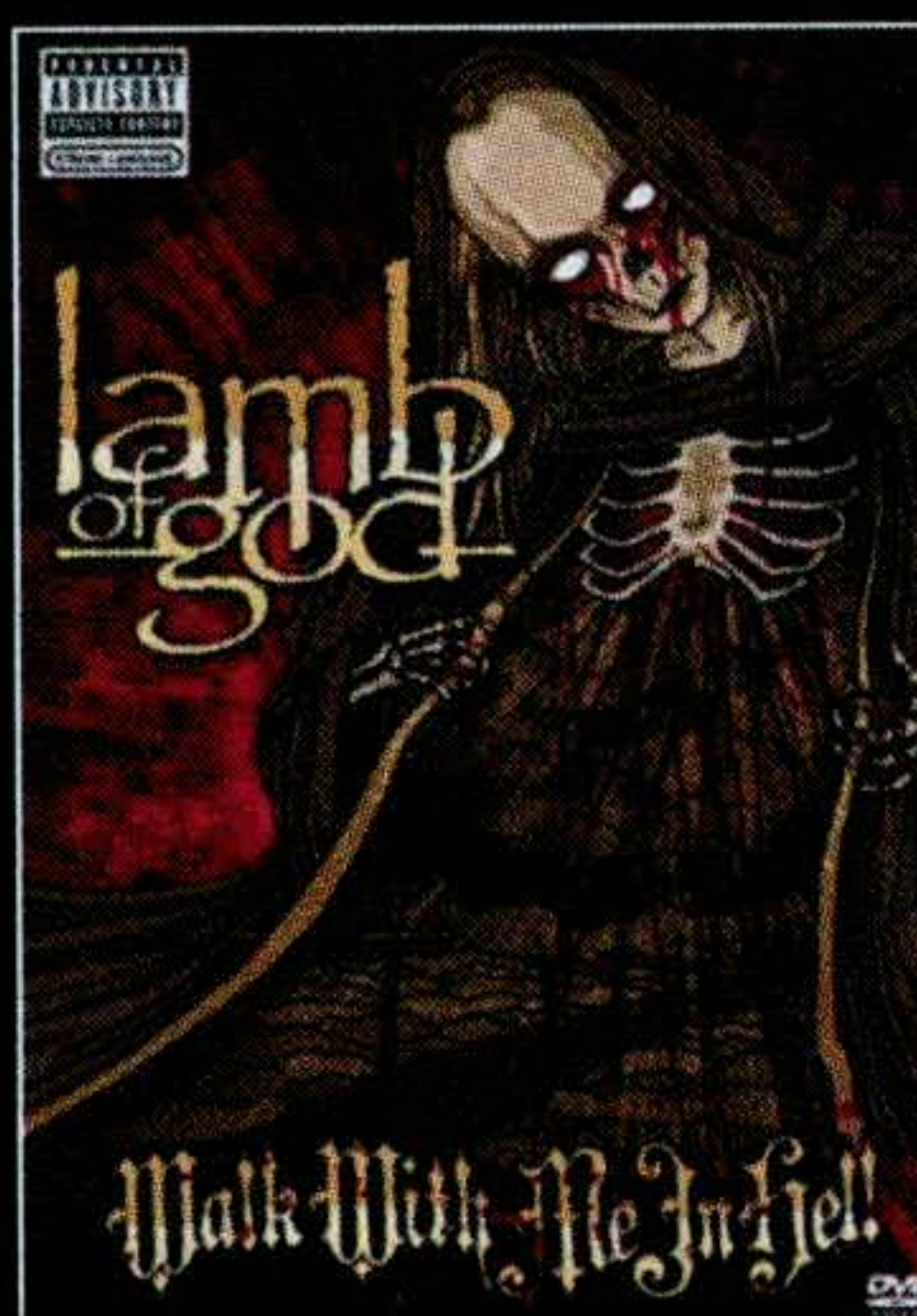


## Decapitated Human's Dust Metal Mind

Composed solely of live footage and interviews, the newest material on this first-ever Decapitated DVD is from 2004. In fact, the material that makes up the "feature" on *Human's Dust* is a live set from Poland in 2002 at the same studio that's featured on Cannibal Corpse's *Monolith Of Death* DVD. While it's nice to see them playing to a home-country crowd, this and all other live footage on the DVD suffer from what all other live metal footage suffers from: Quick, pointless and chaotic cuts from camera to camera, each shot lasting (at best) a few seconds. There's never enough time to figure out what the fuck is going on before there's some sort of *Wayne's World*-esque extreme close up or cut to another member of the band or the crowd. Trying to recreate the insanity of a live death-metal show for living-room consumption is impossible, and this editing-bay masturbation needs to end.

The "bonus video" is anything but: Three songs from Ozzfest, six songs from the Metalmania Festival (both in Katowice, Poland), and three boring interviews from the same shows. In addition to this uninspired footage is a "video clip" for the song "Winds Of Creation" that's poorly edited, friend-filming-from-the-side-of-the-stage, camcorder-style. The music and footage don't even sync up, which is most likely because the footage is from a number of different songs.

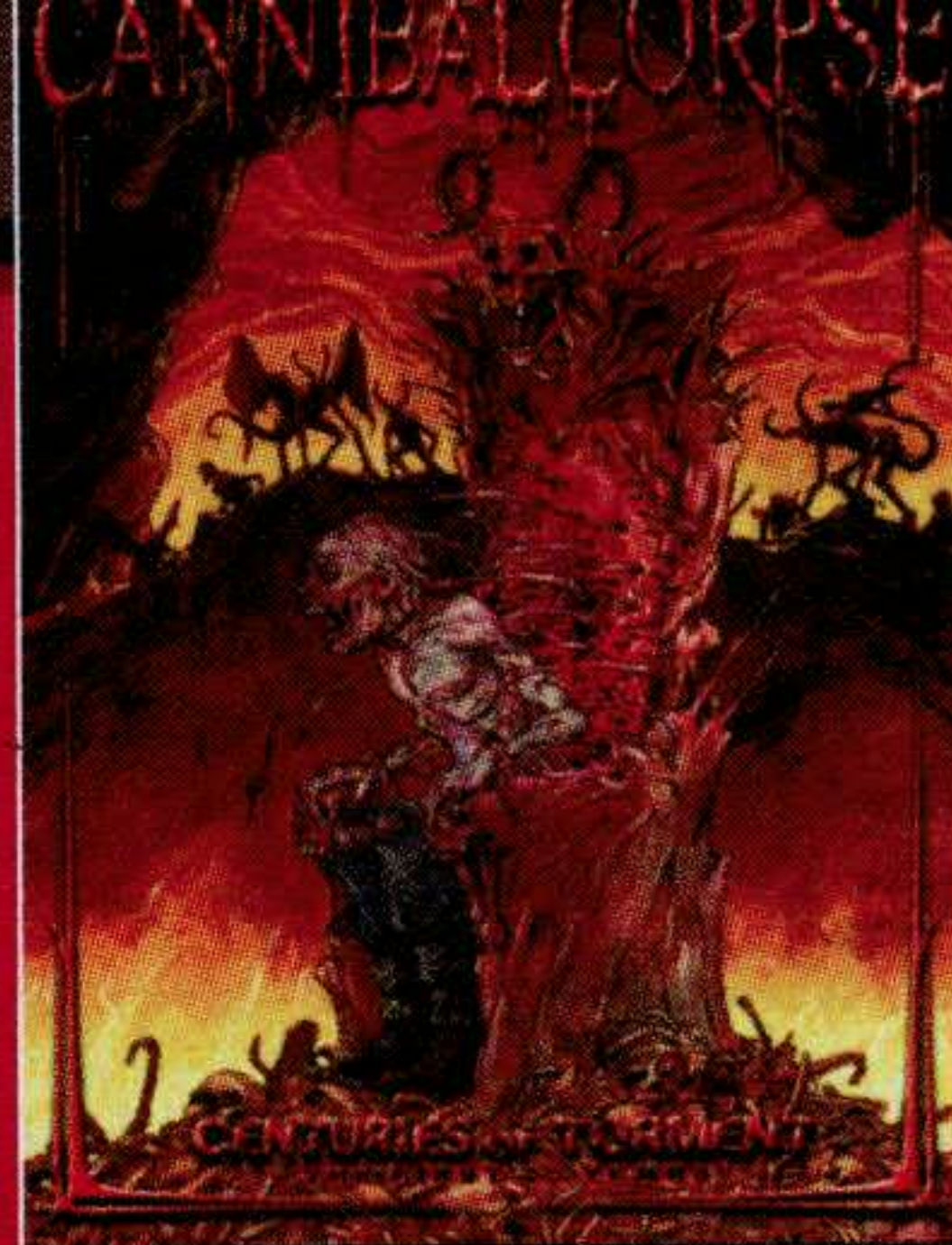
The only remotely interesting thing on this disc is the band addressing detractors who feel they're only popular because they were marketed as being a band of prodigies. With no Earache logo in sight, this has the stench of a thrown-together release trying to make a quick buck off of the unfortunate death of drummer Vitek. Decapitated — and their fans — deserve better. [decapitatedband.net] — Dave Hofer



## Lamb Of God Walk With Me In Hell Epic

*Walk With Me In Hell* is a two-DVD set featuring all aspects of the band since *Killadelphia*. Disc one features a travelogue: Band antics and sights on tour in Japan, Australia, Ozzfest in the USA and the difficulties in touring throughout Europe (no Miller Lite nor Taco Bell). Most of it is band shot, camcorder footage, with some sporadic staged interviews

## Cannibal Corpse Centuries Of Torment Metal Blade



After two ho-hum home-video releases (1997's *Monolith Of Death* and 2000's *Live Cannibalism*), death metal veterans Cannibal Corpse have stepped up and delivered an amazing triple-DVD set. While their excellent 2003 box set, *15 Year Killing Spree*, was — like any box set — for nerds only, *Centuries Of Torment* had even my non-metalhead girlfriend interested. Disc one features a three-hour history of the band, disc two is all live footage and music videos, and the final disc plays host to "bonus chunks."

The documentary featured on the first disc works particularly well because all of the members are still alive and Cannibal Corpse seem to have filmed every waking moment of their touring experiences. The feature is broken up into two parts, pre- and post-1995, which could also be said as "with Chris Barnes" and "without Chris Barnes." The band has a great sense of humor and a frankness that's not often portrayed in the sometimes-too-serious metal world. Embarrassing pre-Cannibal Corpse live footage is shown with aplomb, band members chuckle at their overly-gross song titles and departures of various members over the years are discussed as honestly as one could hope. The only thing missing from this definitive history is founding guitar player Bob Rusay, who seems to be MIA. Every other member, past and present, is represented, along with Metal Blade staff, producers Scott Burns and Erik Rutan, old friends, members of other bands, club owners, radio show hosts and even Rob Barrett's mom.

The middle disc is the weakest of the three, which isn't to say that it's bad, but live footage always leaves something to be desired when not actually being viewed in person. The material chosen is cool, stretching from 1989 to 2007, and the songs are good ("The Spine Splitter" and Barnes-era "Pulverized" are two standouts), but the power of Cannibal Corpse live is lost between the show and the living room.

Disc three — the "bonus chunks" — consists of topics important to understanding Cannibal Corpse but not necessarily able to be crammed into the already-long documentary. It's on this disc that the band's sense of humor really comes forward as they discuss the process of coming up with ridiculous song titles, hanging out with Cher, censorship, lyric writing and Vince Locke's artwork.

Kudos must be given not only to the band, but to director Denise Korycki, who went above and beyond on this stellar set. Simply a must-have for Cannibal Corpse fans, *Centuries Of Torment* ranks right up there with both *Some Kind Of Monster* and *A Year And A Half In The Life Of Metallica*, all three Pantera home videos, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers' making-of *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* documentary, *Funky Monks*, as one of the best organized, thought-out and executed DVDs showcasing a band offstage. [myspace.com/cannibalcorpse] — Dave Hofer

thrown in, all intercut with some (albeit a surprisingly limited amount considering the two-hour running time) performances of only *Sacrament* tunes. The second platter, which predates the first, includes a 90-minute synopsis on the creation of *Sacrament* (pre-production through to the start of last year's Unholy Alliance Tour), camcorder, in-studio footage in color and professionally shot commentary from each of the members in black 'n' white. Everyone gets an in-depth look, including their contributions inside and outside LOG, plus slices of life in Virginia including chili cook-offs, Will Adler's barbeque, Mark Morton's success on the drag racing track and more. Bespeckled frontman Randy Blythe looks the antithesis of the maniac portrayed onstage. The entire eight-song, 40-minute, Download festival appearance is the hallmark of the second disc. Recommended. [lamb-of-god.com] — Mark Gromen