



[home](#) | [reviews](#) | [interviews](#) | [features](#) | [lost & found](#) | [dvd reviews](#) | [links](#) | [about sparrow](#) | [contact us](#)

dvd reviews

ICRUSHER

Extensive Videography
From Influential Brit
Label
(Earache)

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

El Duce Vita
(MVD)

WAKING UP DEAD

The Pitfalls of Drumming for
Scumbags.
(MVD)

KREATOR

Enemy of God Revisited
(SPV)

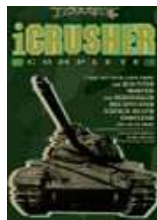
EINSTURZENDE

NEUBATEN

Palast Der Republik
(MVD)

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ICRUSHER

Extensive Videography From Influential Brit Label
(Earache)



Tell me one record label that doesn't have an embarrassing release in its back catalogue and we'll get into an argument because we'll disagree. Nottingham based Earache is one of the most influential extreme labels in history, and that's a point that can't be argued. Founded in 1985 by Digby Pearson Earache Records has helped forge the career of some of the most successful underground acts. Milestones by key bands such as Carcass, Morbid Angel, Godflesh, Bolt Thrower, Cathedral amongst many others, have experienced success in part thanks to the efforts of this label and though nowadays their current roster does not reflect the same level of influence in general terms, Earache remains one of the premier underground extreme music labels. ICrusher Complete is a double disc DVD (one disc with video and audio data on both sides) including twenty-three videos along with eleven bonus audio tracks and it's one mixed and uneven representation of the label's historical roster.

Starting with the average and the fun is everyone's favorite freak Mortiiis, whose accessible hard electronic industrial music can not escape the generic tag with Michael Schumacher at the wheel. His videos are quite fun though because frontman Havard Ellefsen (he was once the bassist for Emperor) dons a prosthetic mask and pointy ears and is apparently very much the focus of attention of hot party girls. The Haunted show up with a live performance of "Hollow Ground", the standout track from their sophomore album *The Haunted Made Me Do It* and the biggest surprise of all, Nevada's December, a band I had never heard before, offer up "Host" a pretty killer grind metal attack. Hate Eternal's badass "Powers That Be" (out of *King of All Kings*) proves that low-to-no-budgets can make for decent videos. Just add some grain and quick editing. Australian hyper fast sickos The Berzerker are quite the divisive band. Their video of "Forever" has little to no artistry in it (dudes with masks and gloves pretend to play in front of a really big rock), and the same could be said about their music. The technically adept Decapitated mix their conceptual interpretation of the Hellraiser box and as a result we get a decent song and a cheap video.

Earache's Achilles heel has always been their dubious signing of shitty trendy bands and ICrusher, via the totality of their videography seems to highlight those missteps. Society 1, the industrial rock quartet led by Matt Zane, proves that their music has zero value via the totally lame "Nothing". The band's biggest attraction is Zane's frontman antics; namely hanging himself from hooks, that's cool and all but their music sucks. Italian band Linea 77 present a pretty awful nu metal song called "Ketchup Suicide". For those who do not know this band; these bambinos have made some awful choices. Unfortunately their genre hopping hasn't helped their cred and, despite some acceptable non nu-metal albums, their past as baggy panted wanna be's has taken care of the rest. The most horrible song of all those included is by a band monikered Autonomy; who prove that there is nothing more embarrassing than a white boy with baggy pants jumping around like a cricket. Their song "Was It Worth It" is so horrible and clichéd it looks and sounds like a Saturday Night Live skit.

Completing this DVD are filler audio tracks by the likes of Usurper, Corporation 187, Cult of Luna, Rabies Caste, December Wolves, Insision and others. What's wrong with these audio

tracks? Nothing, I just don't see the point in including them here. Also, we get footage of December in the studio with Devin Townsend and footage of Society 1 filming a video. Yes, Matt Zane hangs himself. Yes he makes it seem like it doesn't hurt. And yes, Society 1 sucks ass. The second extra on Society 1 is more entertaining; there is some live footage of people throwing plastic cups at the band and Zane dodging them like he is used to it. There is Zane trying to get people in the audience to stick fingers up his ass and contains excerpts of an interview with Zane. At one point he says, *'I have this need to make people suffer'*. Judging by his band's music we are safe to say, mission accomplished.



deafsparrow.com

Contact Deaf Sparrow at
editor@deafsparrow.com