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Various Artists: MetalMania 2007 (DVD)

On the 2007 installment of the MetalMania festival in Poland, the organizers brought together quite the collection of bands this time around, many of whom have been creating music since the 1980's. Veteran acts like Testament, Destruction, Entombed, Sepultura, and Paradise Lost collided with more recent acts such as Vital Remains, Zyklon, Darzamat, and Korpiklaani, for a truly varied event. This DVD set (the DVD itself runs over 2 hours) also includes a bonus CD that includes one song each from a host of bands that appeared on the second stage, most of whom are little known except for TYR and Benedictum, but don't miss out on the killer Polish death metal outfit Deivos, whose song "Blackness Incarnate" is one of the highlights here.



Most of the main stage groups are represented on the DVD with a few songs, save for Crystal Abyss and Paradise Lost, who only have one song each. For Crystal Abyss, that's not that big a deal because their brand of simplistic, symphonic black metal is not too easy on the ears, but denying Paradise Lost, who were one of the main bands at the festival, anything other than "Say Just Words" here (which is not one of their better tunes) seems a bit unfair. Instead, we get stuck with three songs with the dull Blaze Bayley and his band (including the one classic he did with Iron Maiden, "Sign of the Cross"), and two from Darzamat. The latter are actually a very good band, but appeared at MetalMania before and we've seen "Labyrinth of Anxiety" performed by them before on a previous DVD release. On the plus side, you get three crushing pieces from Samoth and his death metal squad Zyklon, three from blasphemous & brutal Vital Remains (who, surprisingly come across very melodic here), a scorching "Bestial Invasion" from German thrash legends Destruction, and five powerful numbers from headliners Testament. Sepultura put on an energetic performance, but this current line-up just seems to be lacking somewhat. The original death-core legends Entombed really work the crowd into a frenzy, showing that they still can bring the goods and deliver their brand of unique Swedish extreme metal.

Despite some lazy camera work on some songs (the crew seemed only intent on focusing on Schmier during the Destruction set, and totally missed violin and accordion solos during Korpiklaani's few tunes) this is a well produced set and the audio pretty decent. Not much in the form of extras to speak of, save for a nice history of the festival (dating back to 1986) and some photo galleries, but overall a fun summary of what looked like another great Polish metal festival.

Track Listing

- DVD (main stage)**
01. Korpiklaani - Tuli Kokko
 02. Korpiklaani - Pellonpeikko
 03. Korpiklaani - Wooden Pints
 04. Crystal Abyss - Darkness Awakes
 05. Darzamat - Labyrinth of Anxiety
 06. Darzamat - The Burning Times
 07. Zyklon - Underdog
 08. Zyklon - Wrenched
 09. Zyklon - Psyklon Aeon
 10. Vital Remains - Intro - Let the Killing Begin
 11. Vital Remains - Dechristianize
 12. Vital Remains - Infidel
 13. Entombed - When In Sodom
 14. Entombed - Carnage
 15. Entombed - Revel In Flesh
 16. Destruction - Total Desaster
 17. Destruction - Bestial Invasion
 18. Destruction - Nailed to the Cross
 19. Blaze Bayley - Alive
 20. Blaze Bayley - Kill & Destroy
 21. Blaze Bayley - Sign of the Cross
 22. Sepultura - Convicted in Life
 23. Sepultura - False
 24. Sepultura - Dead Embrionic Cells

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