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dvd/books reviews

NASHVILLE PUSSY Live in Hollywood (MVD)

BLACK METAL SATANICA Quick History & Philosophy (MVD)

GORGOROTH Black Mass Krakow 2004 (Metal Mind)

TAD Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears (Metal Mind)

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)

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dee dee - history on my arms

HISTORY ON MY ARMS

It's a shame man, because as I watch this lengthy interview with Dee Dee I can see the little kid from Queens quite clearly. With a cleaner skin, for sure. The years had marked his soul, skin and spirit and he sheds some of what's left in this interview (he also pulls back a little, he says, 'I won't go in to that' at least twice) with filmmaker Lech Kowalski.

Set against a dark background - in what looks like an abandoned NY loft - what you see is what you get. An often times bare chest Dee Dee telling the old stories about Johnny Thunders and how much he pissed him off (in one of the best bits Dee Dee says something to the effect of 'I didn't like him, that's why I left him turning blue in the bath tub'), about getting ripped off on his songwriting of "Chinese Rocks", about tough times in Europe, trying to stay clean while being surrounded by drug fiends, about his tattoos and their history.

There is not much content about the Ramones or his childhood here. There is not even any music besides a couple of bluesy licks courtesy of Dee Dee. History On My Arms is more about his struggle to stay clean, a struggle that finally overpowered him when he succumbed to heroin in Los Angeles in 2002. The title of the DVD is taken from one of Dee Dee's lines. He is talking about all the ink (and the track marks too), he is telling their stories, where and why they got done and what they meant. It's useful stuff, if you care about what he did and tried to do with other musicians outside of the Ramones, that is.

History On My Arms is a repackage of the documentary Hey Is Dee Dee Home. This new release includes two bonus features; a very boring interview with Die Totem Hosen drummer Vom Ritchie in which the German drummer talks about his relationship with Dee Dee. They don't seem to have been that close, so I am not sure what the point of this inclusion was. The extra ;documentary' actually titled History On My Arms isn't anything but outtakes and some actual scenes from the Hey Is Dee Dee Home interview. There are a few pics that flash by, but besides that, the extra features are rather pointless and meatless. Also included is a CD of Dee Dee playing his guitar. Not stellar stuff and definitely, not the stuff you want to remember him by.



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