



September 21,  
2009

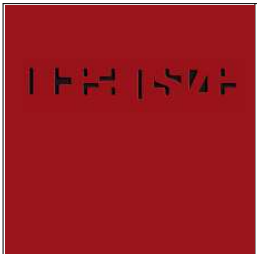
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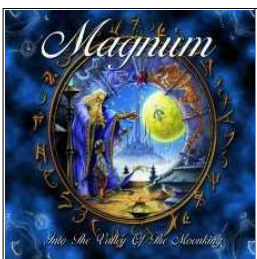
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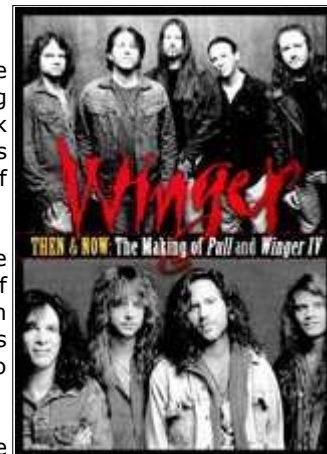
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**Winger - Then & Now: The Making of Pull and Winger IV**

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*Only for the fans*

Hot on the heels of the release of their live C.D./D.V.D. 'Live' (which was shot during their 2007 comeback tour), U.S. hard rock act Winger return with a new D.V.D. for fans in the form of 'Then & Now: The Making of 'Pull' and 'Winger IV'.



As the title suggests, 'Then & Now: The Making of 'Pull' and 'Winger IV' comprises of two documentaries that give viewers an insight into what went on behind the scenes with the band while recording their last two releases.

The first half of the D.V.D. focuses on the making of the band's third full-length release 'Pull', which was originally released in late 1993 on video. As you would expect, the footage hasn't aged all that well in the fourteen years since it was shot, and it certainly hasn't been cleaned up (either visually or in the audio remastering sense) for this re-release.

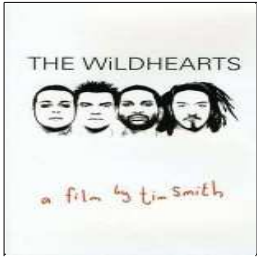
Unfortunately, a lot of the footage of the band (who at the time were a trio comprising of vocalist/bassist/guitarist Kip Winger, guitarist/backing vocalist Reb Beach and drummer/backing vocalist Rod Morgenstein) isn't all that informative or interesting. Only a couple of moments, such as watching Kip try to pull chewing gum out of his hair, Kip and producer Mike Shipley having a go at each other, Beach breaking into a version of 'One' (which he would later cover with Dokken on 1999's 'Erase the Slate') and guitarist/backing vocalist John Roth's unique approach to remembering drum rhythms, really stands out throughout the forty-seven duration of the documentary, making it a bit of a letdown.

What is a definite plus about the re-release of 'The Making of 'Pull' is the inclusion of the band's four promotional video clips from 'Pull', namely 'Down Incognito', 'Spell I'm Under', 'In My Veins' and 'Who's the One'.

The second half of the D.V.D. is 'The Making of 'Winger IV'', which in all honesty is far more entertaining. Over its forty minute duration, we get a fly on the wall (or camera on the top of a monitor in this case) perspective of Kip and Beach putting together the songs that made up the band's fourth full-length effort from 2006. There's an obvious musical chemistry and friendship between the pair, and the ease at which the two are able to put together songs is evident throughout. Highlights include the numerous jam sessions between Kip and Beach (especially while putting together of 'Your Great Escape') and the acoustic/strings enhanced rendition of 'Blue Suede Shoes' that closes the D.V.D.



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The reasons why Winger have decided to release 'Then & Now: The Making of 'Pull' and 'Winger IV'' on D.V.D. is still bit of a mystery, especially given Winger's somewhat low profile these days. But having said that, if you happen to big a huge (and I mean seriously huge) Winger fan, and already have the band's 'Live' D.V.D., then you may find something of value in this release.

**(MVD Visual)**

**Added:** September 4th 2009  
**Reviewer:** Justin Donnelly  
**Score:** ★★★★★☆☆☆☆☆  
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