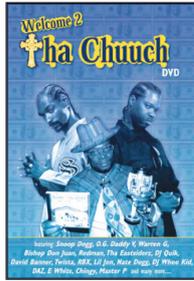


'Church,' 'Mixtape' DVDs worth watching



"SNOOP DOGG, O.G., DADDY G AND MORE — WELCOME 2 THA CHURCH" (Original Gangsta Television/MVD Visual) ★★☆☆ — "Welcome 2 Tha Church" mix tape was established in 2003 by Snoop Dogg, Dee Hustle and O.G. Daddy V for the purpose of promoting new artists on Dog House Records.

This DVD is brought to you courtesy of Original Gangsta Television, or OGTV like the icon says in the bottom right of the screen.

A lot of what you will see is some behind-the-scenes-like clips of Snoop and a host of others in the studio, at the mall and at a variety of other spots free styling, smoking blunts and doing remixes on the beats of other hip-hop hits.

After that, you get a taste of some up-and-coming artists in the booth putting out some exclusive music mixed in with some clips of stage performances of the legends mentioned, plus a segment at the Players Ball.

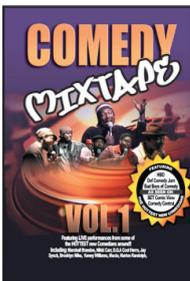
You will never see as many pimp cups documented than you will here, and if I need to explain the Players Ball to you, then you don't really need to watch this DVD.

Also, there are some bouncing cars and women, so what more could you ask for?

A few things that could make this work better is if it was on Blu-ray or high definition and if the music was turned down a smidge so the vocals could come out a little more. The camera work also is full of motion, and could make someone dizzy at times.

Other than that, in front of the TV with a drink to sip on and this DVD playing is the place to be on Sundays, "church." (Michael DiVittorio)

"COMEDY MIXTAPE VOL. 1" (Poppseed/MVD Visual) ★★☆☆ — Fans of "Comic Remix," a compilation



show on Comedy Central which features the funniest parts from many different stand-up acts, will be able to appreciate this DVD.

Fans of BET's "Comic View," "Bad Boys of Comedy" and HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" will have an advantage because many of the comedians have been on those shows before.

"Comedy Mixtape Vol. 1" is set up more like "Comic Remix," but with the salty language of "Def Comedy Jam."

Marshall Brandon's take on a thug having to act like a thug 2/3 even at a birthday party is funny. Nikki Carr's take on larger women getting more dates in the winter months is even better.

Macio's spot is not that special. I think his performance would be better straight through instead of mixed with other people. Kenny Williams also fits in that category.

Marlon Randolph has some highlights, but he's like Macio, and needs a set all to his own. Randolph's music video segment and how Sean "P. Diddy" Combs dances is good, but the rest isn't that great.

Cool Herm's outfit is funny, but most of his spot is not. Sinck's material will be able to connect with nearly anyone 25 and older. Highlights include the changing of playgrounds and the establishment of Cartoon Network.

The segment of Real Talk with A.G. White is real funny and real racial. It features just a picture of him with a hip-hop beat in the background with him talking about funny observations.

One of Marshall's highlights includes a joke about throwback clothing. He says they call it that because you wear it today, and throw it back on tomorrow. He is a comic to be reckoned with.

The video could be a little brighter. Sometimes it's hard to really get a look at the performers. It's nicely put together besides that. This is a good buy for those that do not have a DVR or a way to record these performances when and if they come on TV. (MD)

Korn bassist off drugs and on to Christ



Reggie "Fieldy" Arvizu has written a book chronicling his life as a drug addict and his subsequent recovery.

CHICAGO (AP) — The members of Korn are about to get a big apology from one of their own — and you can read it along with them.

Bassist Fieldy has released a book, "Got the Life: My Journey of Addiction, Faith, Recovery and Korn," this week. The book includes letters Fieldy (born Reginald Arvizu) wrote to each band member apologizing for his past bad behavior.

Fieldy said he gave an advance copy to guitarist James "Munky" Shaffer but he has yet to hear his reaction. He said he expects frontman Jonathan Davis to read it as well. He didn't give them the letters privately because he wanted to be open about his sobriety.

Fieldy, 39, struggled with alcohol, drugs and overeating. He would even eat food off other people's used room-service trays — even trash cans. He also was a womanizer and liked to intimidate anyone, male or female, who disagreed with what he calls "Fieldy's rules."

He quit cold turkey when his father, a born-again Christian, told him his dying wish was for his son to find God. Now he's married with three children and working on a new album with Korn and his side project, Stillwell.

AP: You were kind of a jerk when you were on drugs.
Fieldy: I was as bad as it gets. What I wrote in the book, I was probably worse than that. I couldn't really explain how bad it was. Me trying to kill people wasn't as bad as me tearing people down and making people cry and ripping them apart, because words never heal. That's what I've learned. I'd rather raise my son and tell him, "If you get in a fight with your friend, just punch him. Don't say anything, because the next day he doesn't get over that."

AP: How old were you when you became an alcoholic?
Fieldy: About 13 or 14. I was full-blown. Every day we would hide the alcohol, stealing from stores or stealing it from our parents and hiding out in dirt fields and drinking it before school and after school.

AP: What could someone have said to you then to make you stop?

Fieldy: If somebody told me, "Not a good idea," I would've said, "No, it's probably a good idea if you get drunk with me." I would've flipped it around on them. There was no way you could tell me anything. I wasn't listening to any type of reason.

AP: You mention in your book you got your pills from "rock doctors." How did that work?

Fieldy: In the rock 'n roll slang world, they're called rock doctors, or rock docs. They would come out to shows and like to hang backstage. You could get a prescription for anything you want from them. They just want to hang out and party. It's crazy because you can get a prescription to anything. It doesn't even matter what kind of doctor they are.

AP: You quit cold turkey — no rehab, no Alcoholic Anonymous meetings. How did you pull that off?

Fieldy: I talk to people who go to rehab, and they get this AA book that they've got to read everyday — really thick book. They go through all these 12 steps and do all this and that. It's crazy how everybody can sit and talk about rehab but if I come to say Christ was my rehab, it's not cool to say that. ... For me that's my rehab. That's what happened with me and it's an amazing and powerful thing.

AP: Your former bandmate, Brian "Head" Welch, faced criticism when he decided to follow God and quit drugs. Do you think you will too?

Fieldy: I didn't go and quit anything. I remained who I am, so I don't know if anybody wants to criticize. I'm still me. I made some changes, I didn't go around telling everybody I was ready to make changes, I just remained me. I may get more criticism today in putting this book out than I have. You know, maybe this is my time, but I'm ready to take the criticism and answer anybody's questions.



In addition to the White Stripes and the Raconteurs, Jack White, second from right, is a member of the Dead Weather.

White chases his muse with new band

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — For Jack White, there are two approaches to stardom.

One is to play it safe and do whatever it takes to maintain your celebrity. The other is to follow your heart and pursue new ideas that come to you.

Obviously, White subscribes to the latter.

Already a member of The White Stripes and The Raconteurs, White unveiled his newest rock band, The Dead Weather last week.

"The bands are all still happening. Everything is still occurring. This is a new one to add to the mix," said White, who wore his curly black hair askew and puffed on a cigar during a party at his Third Man Records label to announce the project.

During the party, White and the three other members of the group — Alison Mosshart of The Kills, Dean Fertita of Queens of the Stone Age and Jack Lawrence of The Greenhornes — previewed their new album "Horehound" due out in June.

The four of them sat on a couch as the music played, White closing his eyes and swaying his head, Mosshart chain smoking and mouth-

ing the lyrics. Black and white footage taken inside a vinyl record pressing plant flickered on a white tile wall beside them.

Afterward, the musicians performed a handful of new songs for the 150 or so guests that included Sheryl Crow, Martina McBride and White's partner in The White Stripes, Meg White.

The music was bluesy, raw and aggressive, with Mosshart handling lead vocals and White playing drums.

They played in a performance space in the same building as White's label offices, set in a gritty neighborhood of warehouses and adult businesses.

Mosshart and White wrote most of the album's 11 tracks, sometimes alone, sometimes with Fertita and Lawrence — both of whom also perform with White in The Raconteurs. The lone cover is a revved-up rendition of Bob Dylan's "New Pony."

"We didn't write that one," White cracked during the review.

White, 33, is known for his electric guitar work, but he started out a drummer. He

said the new project allows him to reconnect with the instrument.

"I produced from the drummer seat, and I really loved it so much because I haven't done it since I was a teenager, 15 years ago," he said. "I wanted to go back to my first love which was the drums. I did it on James Bond with Alicia (Alicia Keys, who collaborated with White for the theme to the James Bond film "Quantum of Solace"), and I wanted to do it with a band. I wanted to produce from the drummer's seat and see what happens."

The project emerged after a Raconteurs show, from a backstage conversation

between White, Mosshart and Lawrence

"The idea was to do a 7-inch single and be done," White said. "But we started writing songs and something happened."

The band, whose name White describes as a patchwork of references to other musical groups, plans to tour this year. Mosshart and White insist it won't affect their other endeavors.

"Everything is going on at the exact same time," Mosshart said. "We all collectively decided that 2009 is the year of the daredevil. No days off. We're just going to work every single day no matter what we're doing."

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