

Johnny Cash
Man In Black: Live In Denmark 1971
 Sony/BMG

This DVD finds Johnny Cash at the peak of his popularity and talent. Joined by his wife June, The Carter Family, The Statler Brothers, guitarist Carl Perkins, and of course his band the Tennessee Three, Cash shows why he was the number one country performer in the world at the time with his clear, deep voice and his undeniable charisma. In fact, everyone has great performances. From "Flowers on the Wall" by a very young-looking Statler Brothers to "Matchbox" from rockabilly legend Perkins, the Man in Black's guests all rise to the occasion.

But it is really Cash himself who truly shines in this video. His voice is great, and his enthusiasm for the songs really shows. One of many highlights of the show is the gospel number, "Children, Go Where I Send Thee", which finds Cash energetically trading lines with the revue members, at certain points jumping around with fists pumping in the air. Fantastic. For Johnny Cash fans, this DVD is a must-own. For someone who is just jumping on the Cash bandwagon, this DVD is a great place to start to see a true musical icon in his prime.

• Colin Johnston

Green Day
Under Review 1995-2000, The Middle Years
 Sexy Intellectual

It's interesting that the title of this DVD indicates its intended focus on the years and albums between Dookie and American Idiot, yet the first twenty minutes or so outline the beginning of Green Day and discuss at length the years around their breakout hit album. Of course, it's important to provide some background but it seemed a little misleading.



Unless you are a music industry somebody-who-knows-everybody, or if you grew up in So-Cal in the late '80s or '90s, you probably won't recognize almost any interviewee on this DVD. From rock critics to DJs, friend of the band to record producer, co-founder of their first label (Lookout!) to the owner of 924 Gilman St. Club (where they played numerous shows), each person provides his or her own take on the band's rise to success.

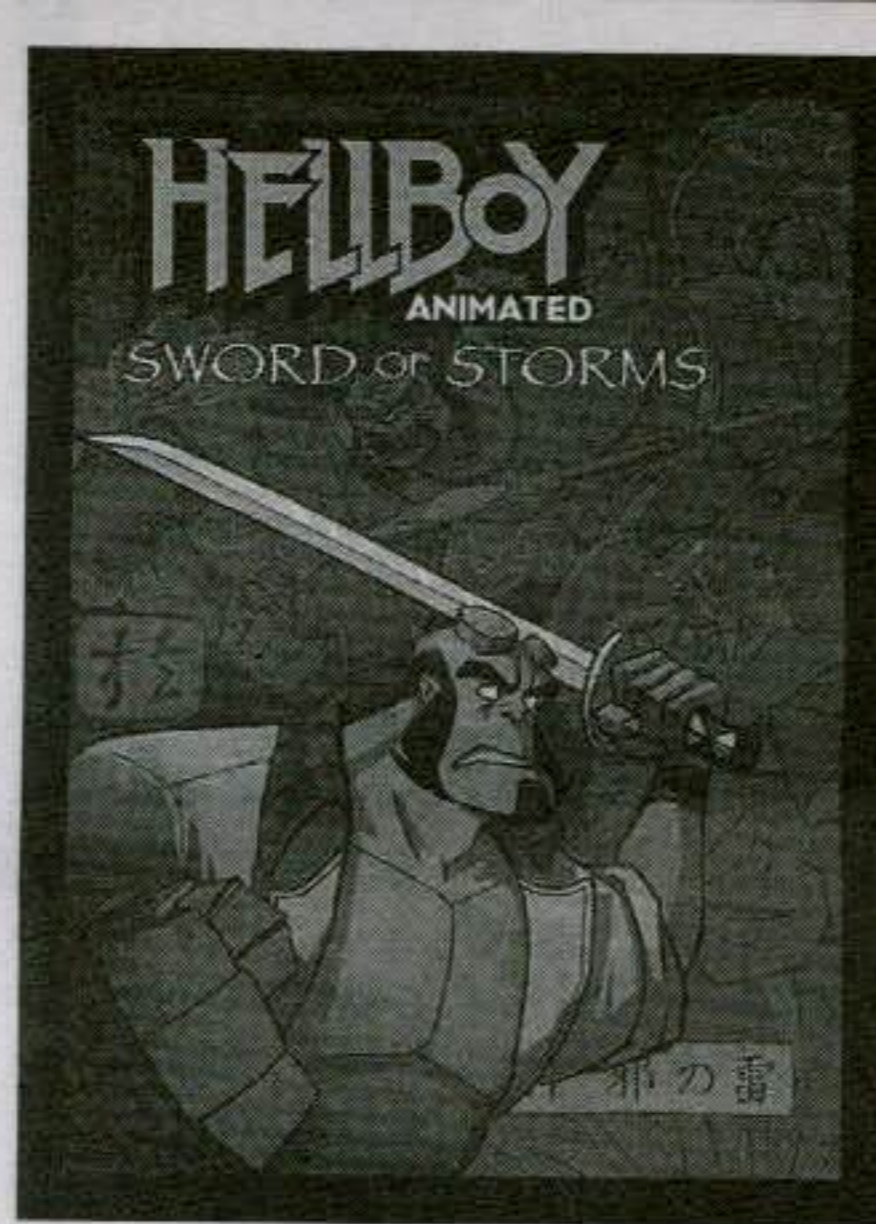
One of the more captivating segments is the discussion with Winston Smith, the artist who created the Insomniac cover. Smith discusses his thoughts on the creation of the bizarre cover and provides some educated insight about the cover of their last album.

If you're looking for some filler that pleases your eyes and ears, this is not the DVD for you. This film is for those fans who are looking for a deeper and somewhat alternative perspective on the band that has reached international super-stardom. More importantly, it provides a fair argument for the less successful material Green Day released between their mega-hit albums.

• Chris Andrade

Hellboy
Sword of Storms
 Anchor Bay

In order to truly appreciate any new Hellboy release, be it animated, feature film, or comic, one must first understand the gestalt of Mike Mignola's creation. Hellboy, as you can imagine, is from hell, brought to this dimension by a Nazi-sympathetic cult in 1944. He was rescued and raised by Allied scientists and was taught to know kindness, honour and a sense of right. But he's not just some chivalrous hero, beating down the forces of evil for the betterment of mankind - oh no - he's a chain smoking, hard talking, dry witted demon with a giant right hand made of stone and horns



lopped off to prevent his looking too "out of place."

Working for the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defense (their slogan: "There are things that go 'bump' in the night. They are the ones who 'bump' back.") has taken Hellboy and his team up against the baddest baddies in any universe and still he lived to tell the tale. *Sword of Storms* is no exception. It sees HB disappear into Japanese myth to prevent the Gods of Thunder and Lightning from wreaking havoc on the world as we know it, and along the way he is met by some interesting characters: six cannibalistic floating heads, a spider-controlling arachnid woman, a water troll, tempting forest vixens and an army of undead samurai. There's just something charming about the way HB calls an ancient Japanese Thunder God "dumbass" that makes the viewer appreciate his work so much more.

The voice acting is great, if not a little unenthusiastic at times, but with a cast including Ron Perlman (*Blade II*), Selma Blair (*Cruel Intentions*, *A Dirty Shame*), and most of the other actors from the Hellboy feature film returning to play their characters in animated form, *Sword of Storms* is a totally entertaining, hilariously dry, animated feature prepping the world for the comeback of the live-action Hellboy sometime in 2008.

In a world where Pixar is king, it's refreshing to see a feature with attitude showing up and kicking some ass. Another significant point is that this is the first animated feature for director Guillermo del Toro, who is garnering near-universal praise for his film *Pan's Labyrinth*. With a cast and crew so talented coming together for the first of two Hellboy animated features this year, it's no shock that the film is well done, funny, and a perfect addition to the Hellboy canon.

• PJ Lavergne

Nirvana
Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!
 Geffen
In Utero: Under Review
 MVD