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Hated: GG Allin & The Murder Junkies (MVD Visual)

The title and expression on late punk singer GG Allin's contorted face in the new cover art of this special DVD edition of *Hated* just about say it all: this was an intense man tangled up in an extreme life. Allin hated and was hated. However, through all the shit and shittiness depicted in the film, there were glimpses of love and brotherhood in Allin's rough punk-rock world.

Allin was notorious for performing naked, smashing equipment, defecating on stage, throwing his own shit at audiences, and other vile and violent acts. His devoted followers celebrated him as one of the few genuinely over-the-top rock 'n' rollers of the punk generation. Others dismissed him as a novelty.

Originally released in 1994 (just a year after Allin died of a heroin overdose in N.Y.C.), this underground documentary was young filmmaker Todd Phillips' first full-length effort. And it's a mess — literally. Phillips basically follows GG's band The Murder Junkies — bass-playing brother Merle Allin, naked drummer Dino Sex, and a rotation of fill-in guitarists (including ex-Ramone Dee Dee) — on an ill-fated tour that barely made it out of the Northeast. The director mixes scenes from the shows and backstage footage of the band members together with interviews of Allin's high school buddies, teachers, and former bandmates. It paints a choppy picture of the man's life in music and punk culture. A few amusing bits of footage from *Geraldo* and local TV news clips. Other highlights (and low moments) include montages from various tours to the tunes of "When I Die," "Bite It You Scum," and "Die When You Die." Not a rockumentary for the timid. (www.mvdb2b.com)

—*T. Ballard Lesemann*