

REVIEWS ETC.



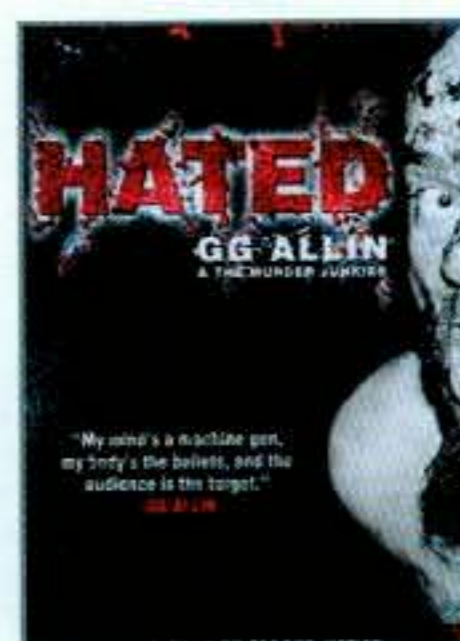
*A DECADE ON THE THRONE:
LIVE*
CHTHONIC
TRA MUSIC

I'm a sucker for a purdy box, so when the new ChthoniC release showed up in the mailbox, I could barely contain my pre-pubescent glee. It looks like a black hardcover book with red foil Taiwanese lettering and a thick matte-board page for each of the three discs (one DVD and two CDs). Never heard of ChthoniC? I hadn't either, but apparently they've been big for a while overseas. In fact, all of the media here is from the bands tenth anniversary show in Taipei from February 2006. A trusted musical confidante told me that I wouldn't like it: It was Taiwanese black metal. Well, my associate was correct about one thing: This is black metal. The "metal god" hand adorns the stage front as each of the members stand as demi-gods on stage in black and white makeup. But it also has a twist of Eastern flavor. The traditional band includes a two-string violin and also incorporated into the celebration act are an Oriental Orchestra and the Taipei Ladies Choir. After first being enthralled with the CDs of the 90 minute show, I watched the DVD of the same show. ChthoniC, from merchandising to live performance, is an extremely visual band. JJ



LIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
DINOSAUR JR.
IMAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Eighteen years had passed since the original incarnation of Dinosaur Jr. stepped on stage together...and then 2005 happened. A small Deep Wound reunion brought J Mascis and Lou Barlow back together and things went well, which lead to conversations about a Dinosaur Jr. reunion and this is where we are today. Filmed mainly from the Boston and New York shows on the 2005 tour, *Live in the Middle East* is astonishingly forceful. Murph's power drumming and Barlow's chordy bass give the low-end basis for Mascis to squirrel his unique solos mixing soul, distortion and volume. Barlow's voice has remained the same and Mascis can still yarl like an excited Stephen Wright. Minus the underlying tension, not much has really changed except for their appearance: Older, heavier, greyer and sonically louder. I cynically expected a minimal approach to the content on *Live in the Middle East*, but an entire "Live @ the World Cafe" and "Chunks Live in London" on the extras catch you up on this unexpected get together. Its a pseudo private look at their re-emergence. Matt Dillon, Kim Gordon, Mike Watt, Steve Albini, and others drop by to play this up too. JJ



HATED: SPECIAL EDITION
**GG ALLIN & THE MURDER
JUNKIES**
MVD VISUAL

It's been about a dozen years since I first viewed *Hated* at a friend's house, but the images and words of GG Allin have always been stored away in a dank closet in my brain. This time around, I noticed that the first-time director and narrator is Todd Phillips, who went on to make *Road Trip*, *Old School* and *Starsky & Hutch*, quite a departure from this docu-film. None of us have ever lived this way. We may have been musicians or addicts or alcoholics or nudists or exhibitionists or rapists or had other trouble with the law, but never in the manner of GG Allin; at least, the stage persona of GG. One-on-one interview snippets reveal a calm man who can rationalize his thoughts. These and a scarcely solemn solo cover of Warren Zevon's *Carmelita* are the only instances that can humanize him. Whether it's a speaking engagement at NYU with a mic and banana, Unk's birthday present, or the one which occasionally cracks open that closet door: a spoken word performance ending with a woman's face meeting a wall at high velocity after she calls GG's suicide bluff, *Hated's* sociopath subject has his exploits on full display. JJ