

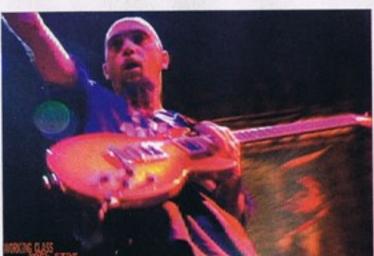
upfront news

Reality Bites

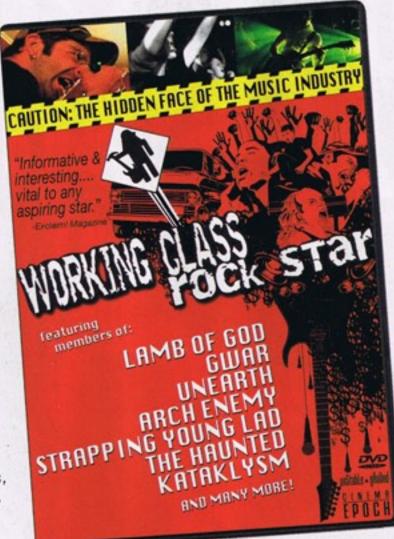
Documentary Working Class Rock Star makes that office job not look so bad

Filmmaker Justin McConnell had no problem relating to the starving artists portrayed in Working Class Rock Star. McConnell financed, filmed and edited his documentary/industry exposé in between paid gigs making commercials and electronic press kits for record labels, and he figures he'll be paying off the debts for awhile. "Trying to make a feature film from pocket money and limited independent investments leads to a lot of nights scrounging for change under the couch cushions so you have enough money to buy bread," he laments. "For better or worse, I approached making this film the way a band at this level would go about making an album now: shoot first and figure out the distribution later."

According to McConnell, he initially envisioned Working Class Rock Star as a project about casual musicians and hobbyists. After filming a series of live performances and interviews with Dog Fashion Disco, McConnell was inspired to







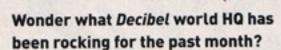
explores the common struggles of young turks 3 Mile Scream, mid-career band Bloodshoteye and veteran act Tub Ring. The DVD—scheduled for wide release on November 11—also includes eye-opening interviews with dozens of other hard rock and metal musicians pontificating on the state of the music industry. "That's the fun of documentary," quips McConnell. "It's never the same film in the end that you planned on making, because you simply can't plan life."

Keyboardist Rob Kleiner, who scored the film and appears onscreen throughout as a member of Tub Ring, was pleased with McConnell's holistic approach with Working Class Rock Star: "The camera was there during band fights, rehearsals, travelling, writing, and dealing with record labels and agents and managers. It really captures what it's like to have to fight for your dreams." Three years after McConnell concluded principal shooting, Tub Ring are still kicking around the circuit. Some bands featured in the documentary—like Byzantine and Strapping

Young Lad—are not.

McConnell, like most of his subjects, is equally cynical and hopeful about the future. "It's going to be up to this new generation of artists and labels to really sit down and figure out where to go from here," he notes. "The old label paradigm is dead, and it's time to adapt to change or die holding onto memories of hookers, blow and limousines."—NICK GREEN

now slaying



Well, here are the records we spun the most while being publicly outed for selling old death metal t-shirts on eBay:

Albert Mudrian : EDITOR IN CHIEF

- >> Wetnurse, Invisible City
- >> Enslaved, Vertebrae
- » At the Gates, The Red in the Sky Is Ours
- Carcass, Necroticism: Descanting the Insalubrious
- » Dinosaur Jr., Where You Been

Andrew Bonazelli : MANAGING EDITOR

- » North, What You Were
- > One Day as a Lion, One Day as a Lion
- >> Whitechapel, This Is Exile
- >> Temple of the Dog, Temple of the Dog
- >> Intronaut, Prehistoricisms

Patty Moran : SENIOR EDITOR

- » Big Bill Broonzy, Trouble in Mind
- >> Lee Morgan, The Sidewinder
- >> Led Zeppelin, Physical Graffiti
- >> The Misfits, Static Age
- >> Earlimart, Hymn and Her

Mark Evans : CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Butthole Surfers, Psychic... Powerless... Another Man's Sac
- Harvey Milk, Life... the Best Game in Town
- » Rotten Sound, Cycles
- >> Orange Goblin, The Big Black
- >> Tool, Opiate

Alex Mulcahy : PUBLISHER

- » Failure, Fantastic Planet
- >> Jack Drag, Soft Songs LP: Aviating
- >> The Fratellis, Here We Stand
- >> The 6ths, Wasps' Nests
- The Decemberists, The Crane Wife

GUEST SLAYER

Neil Fallon : CLUTCH

- >> The Budos Band,
 The Budos Band II
- Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Dig, Lazarus, Dig
- Popol's Blues Band, Volume 3
- Can, Ege Bamyasi
- >> Various Artists, The Roots of Chica

