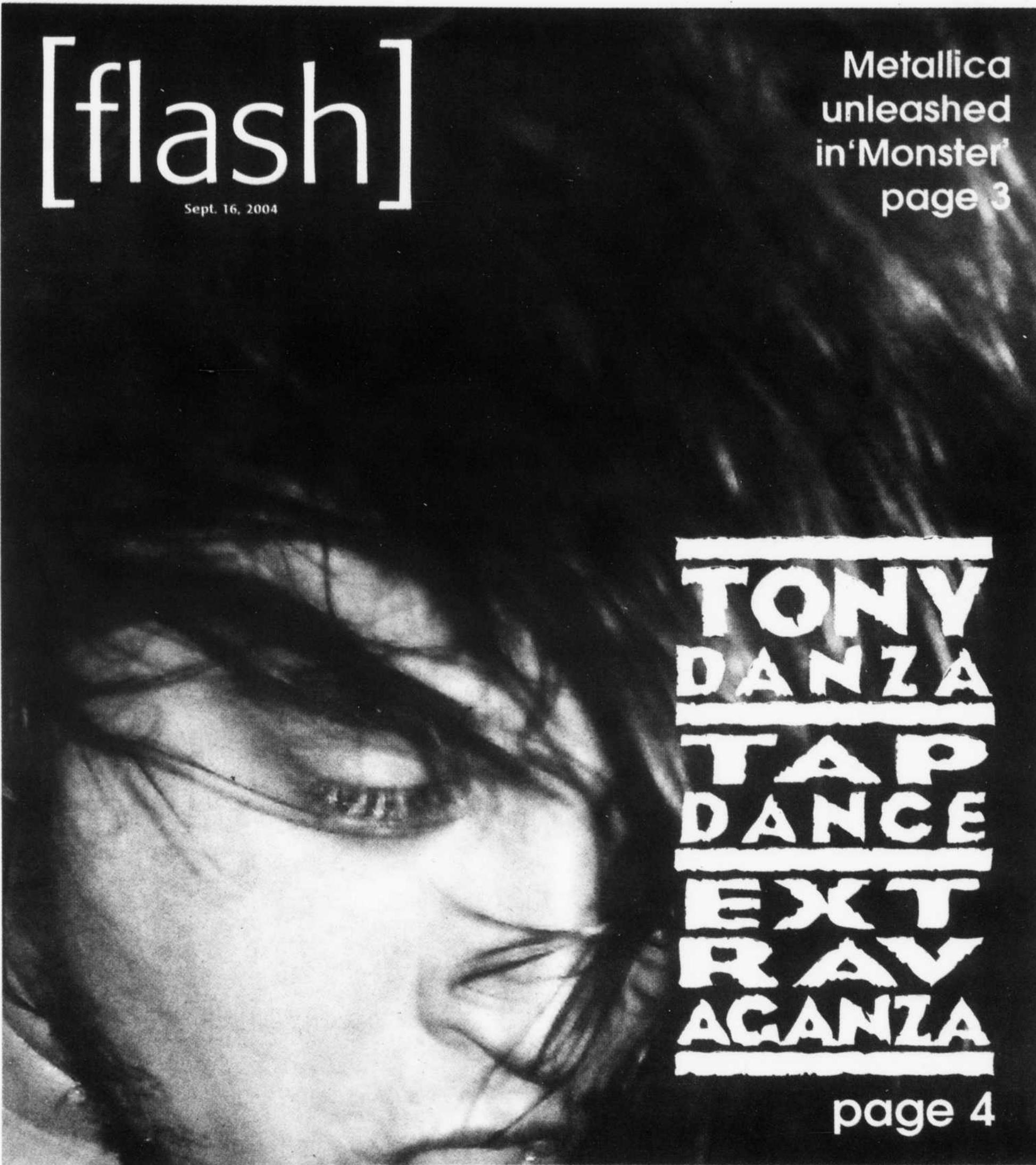


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Sept. 16, 2004

Metallica
unleashed
in 'Monster'
page 3



TONY
DANZA
TAP
DANCE
EXT
RAV
AGANZA

page 4

second annual the 'boro's best 2004 ballot

Please nominate as few national chains as possible

Start your engines, Pedro. Once again, it's time to highlight your favorite bars, clubs, bands, video stores, restaurants and whatever else passes for culture in this decaying college burg we affectionately call Murfreesboro.

Below is democracy-in-action. Our beautiful Quark-made ballot now includes: Best Place to Shop for

Under \$5, Best Local deejay, Best Tattoo Parlor and Best Bookstore.

Ballots should be turned in to the *Sidelines* office, in the James Union Building, Room 310, by Nov. 11. You can also mail us at Post Office Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. And if you're a Webhead, fill out your ballot online at www.mtsusidelines.com. Whew.★

Music

Best Murfreesboro Band

Best Murfreesboro Musician

Best Place to Hear Live Music

Best Place to Play Live Music

Best Local Deejay

Food & Drink

Bar With the Best Bartenders

Best Cup of Coffee

Best Mixed Drinks

Best Happy Hour

Best Beer

Best Atmosphere (Restaurant)

Best Atmosphere (Bar)

Best Breakfast

Best Mexican Food

Best Oriental Food

Best Soul Food

Best Sit-Down Meal in Town

food and drink continued

Best Service (Restaurant)

Best Service (Bar)

Best Drunk/Stoned Food Place

Best Grab-and-Go Lunch Place

Arts & Entertainment

Best Place to Spend a Friday/Saturday Night

Best Place to Spend a Weeknight

Best Place to Pick Up a Date

Best Place to Take Your Date

Best Place to Cheat on Your Date

Best Place to Shop for Under \$5

Best Place to Dance

Best Place to Rent Videos

Best Local Tattoo Parlor

Best Bookstore

Best Place to Experience Local Culture

Best Place to See Local Art

Best Place to Sit, Chill Out and Read

'Some Kind of Monster' reveals Metallica's soft side



Metallica
'Some Kind of Monster'
 IFC Films
Released April 30
 Rated R
 ★★★
 (out of four stars)

By Forrest Sanders

At the opening of *Some Kind of Monster*, tensions are high within the legendary metal band Metallica. Having sued Napster for illegally distributing their music, the band is suffering a backlash from former fans who have taken to stomping their albums in the streets.

In addition to their alleged "selling-out," 15-year bassist Jason Newsted has flown the coop, claiming that the band was hindering his artistic vision. With stress levels at a peak, the band resorts to calling in a shrink (referred to as a "performance enhancement coach") to try and smooth out relations between the three founding members. Angst-ridden conversations, "creative differences" and a lot of door slamming ensue.

As far as I can tell, *Some Kind of Monster* was initially intended to chronicle Metallica's creative process

in recording their first studio album in five years.

However, what directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky have captured in their three years of raw footage is something far more substantial. *Some Kind of Monster* is an intriguing glimpse at the raw psyche of a conflicted rock band. It's an engrossing project that takes the tattooed, head-banging rockers who brought us "Kill 'Em All" and sits them down on a couch to ask such sensitive-guy questions as "How does that make you feel?"

For the most part, *Some Kind of Monster's* running time is split between lead singer James Hetfield and drummer Lars Ulrich. Guitarist Kirk Hammett's role in the documentary is almost relegated to a cameo, probably because his life isn't presently in any sort of turmoil. With James checking into rehab and Lars becoming the arch-nemesis of every free

music downloader in the world, Kirk's role as band peacemaker must have come off as rather ho-hum.

However, *Some Kind of Monster's* drama isn't confined to the members of Metallica. In one highlight of the film, Lars Ulrich engages in a touchy-feely therapy session with Megadeth founder Dave Mustaine, a man who has apparently been holding a grudge against Metallica since being cut from their line-up more than 20 years ago. Former bassist James Newsted also turns up to give a bitter reflection on his years with the remaining rock trio, and James Hetfield even sparks some minor turbulence between himself and the band's sweater-clad shrink — er, excuse me, "performance enhancement coach."

With the band members now pushing middle age, Metallica's priorities have obviously changed. These days, Metallica is composed of family men who must not only record a heavy metal album, but also attend their little girl's ballet recital.

Whether they are in the midst of a rift, stroking their egos or just playing dad, the guys that make up one of the most popular heavy metal groups of all time somehow come across as everyday people. It's perhaps the way in which we can connect with these men that makes the documentary work in the most rudimentary sense.

In all, *Some Kind of Monster* is a fine accomplishment that could very well appeal to those who are not metalheads. In

See **Metallica**, 6

SHANNON LAWSON

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Bassist Mike Butler

**TONY
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TAP
DANCE
EXT
RAV
AGANZA**

Murfreesboro's reigning metal-band shows us 'Who's The Boss?'

By Joe Freisinger
Photos by
Dylan Hawes-Glynn

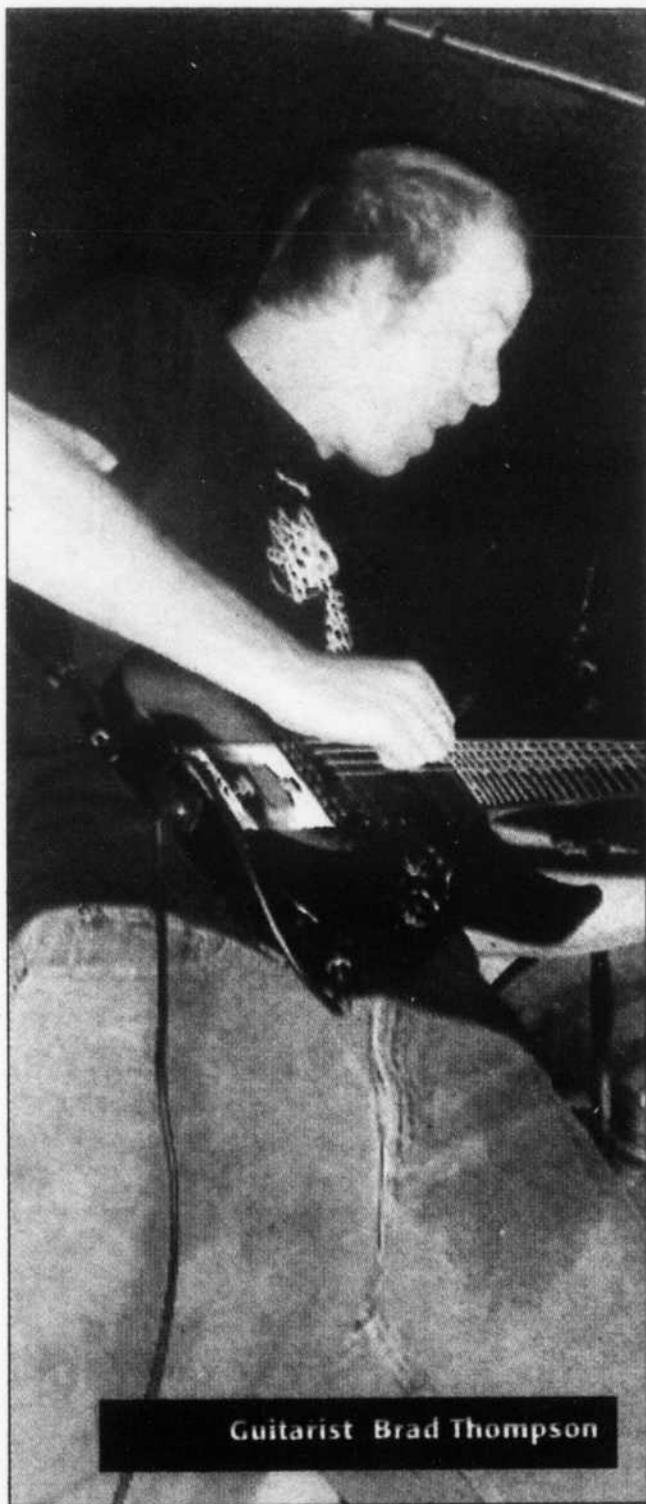


Singer Jessie Freeland

In the ever diverse, complex society of today's metal, there are two main types of bands: those who make jokes and those who are jokes. Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza falls into the first group.

Though their name is a bit misleading (if you're a fan of *Who's the Boss?*, don't expect to see Anthony Micelli cutting loose on the stage), it is a funny one. Four laid-back guys from Louisiana and one from Tennessee form Middle Tennessee's finest Tony Danza-ian metal band.

I had the chance to reminisce with guitarist Brad Thompson about a band I was never part of, while he discussed the past and promise of Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza. I pelted him with individually unrelated questions and he had an answer for everyone.



Guitarist Brad Thompson

Joe Freisinger: First off, what's up with the name?

Brad Thompson: Basically, when we had thought of a name for the band, being a metal band, we didn't want something that [was] ominous and dark for no reason. We wanted something comical. We came up with that and it made us laugh.

JF: How long have you guys been playing together?

BT: As Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza – a little over a year.

JF: Where did you all get your start?

BT: All of us, minus Jessie [Freeland, the lead singer], were originally from Monroe, Louisiana.

JF: Who are your influences?

BT: We run the gamut from Dillinger Escape Plan, Messhuggah, weird things like '80s songs, Syopus, living sacrifice. There are countless [influences], really.

JF: How would you characterize your style?

BT: We always get the term math-metal thrown at us, which yes, it is technical. When I think of that [word], I think of bands like Dillinger Escape Plan and Syopus. It's a technicality. There's no groove. While those bands are amazing and I love those bands, we wanted to be more groove-based.

JF: How does your singer keep from losing his voice?

BT: I can't speak for him, but I know he's never had any problems. He does warm-up exercises, because he knows he's going to be extreme later.

JF: Some of your songs seem to go from total chaos to totally smooth melodies. How do you deal with the changes?

BT: That's the way that Layne Meylain, the other guitar player, writes. We try to make it the biggest bang for your buck and for ourselves. We like to not stay one-dimensional. So it can be very chaotic at times, but there's some kind of underlying melody.

JF: Where are your next shows?

BT: We are playing in Winston-Salem at the New Linea Art center in North Carolina. We've never been there before, so we're really excited. Saturday, we're playing a benefit show at The Muse with a bunch of other local bands.

JF: Where is the band going creatively in the next five years?

BT: The two new songs that we wrote that will be out later in the year definitely are getting heavier and more chaotic. But, at the same time, [they] have a weird southern kind of vibe. But we're not taking away from what we've done in the past. We're keeping that and adding. ★

TONY DANZA TAPDANCE EXTRAVAGANZA TOP BAND PICKS

Syopus, Ion Dissonance, From a Second Story Window, Decapitated, Necrofacia

Ambient noise mars Melvins' CD

By Andrew Young

The Melvins will be playing at the Exit/In on Sept. 30 with opening act Trevor Dunn's Trio Convulsant to support their latest album, *Pigs of the Roman Empire*. The 18th album from the fathers of grunge is a collaboration with ambient noise pioneer – Lustmord – the band's latest attempt to broaden their sonic palette beyond the Sabbath-inspired riffage they have recycled for the past 18 years.

Only three of the album's nine tracks resemble the Melvins' trademark sludge. "The Bloated Pope" is the most straightforward, classic Melvins song on the album. "Pink Bat" and "Safety Third" are the most interesting, combining the Melvins' music with Lustmord's effect-laden production and snatches of ambient noise.

Much of the remaining tracks on *Pigs* are ambient, spooky and often meandering electronic noise pieces

The Melvins
'Pigs of the Roman Empire'
Ipecac
Released Aug. 19

★★
(out of four stars)

that sound out of place on a Melvins record. Nowhere is this pretense more apparent than on the 22-minute title track, an excerpt of which the Melvins are performing live on their latest tour.

While Melvins fans will enjoy at least some of the songs on *Pigs*, it can only be recommended for hardcore fans. A second Melvins collaboration with Jello Biafra is due later this year, and word has it that Jello has been appearing on stage with the Melvins on their most recent dates. ★

Continued from **Metallica**, page 3

retrospect, the only unsatisfactory aspect of the film is its running time. Berlinger and Sinofsky managed to edit their documentary down from a whopping 1,600 hours of film to a finished two-hour, 20-minute cut. They could have afforded to trim it down another half-hour, but the audience will mostly be pleased with the final product.

For the Metallica die-hards, *Some Kind of*

Monster is intercut with grainy footage of the band in classic performances, a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the *St. Anger* album and even an audition reel from the search for current bassist, Robert Trujillo. For the casual viewer, however, *Some Kind of Monster* is a surprisingly intimate rockumentary that anyone who is struggling in a dysfunctional family can relate to. ★



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