



# THE HELLACOPTERS

**\*\*\*DEBUT 'GOODNIGHT CLEVELAND' DVD  
SET FOR RELEASE APRIL 26TH ON ESCAPI\*\*\***

High energy Swedish Rock 'N' Roll outfit The Hellcopters release their first ever DVD, 'Goodnight Cleveland', a fly on the wall documentary following the band around on their 2002 US Tour, on Escapi, (distributed by Pinnacle Vision), on April 26th.

The Hellcopters' sound is a mixture of The Stooges, AC/DC, The Ramones and the Rolling Stones - who hand-picked the band to support them in both Helsinki and Stockholm in 2003.

Inspired by the techniques of cinema verité, the group is given complete freedom and the space to do what they do without intervention from the filmmaker. This DVD is a fascinating glimpse into the magical and mundane moments of everyday life in a hard working action rock band on the road in America.

'Goodnight Cleveland' is essential viewing for anyone pondering a career in a band in the rock music business...a warts and all documentary of life on the road.

**Main Moving Running time is: 48 minutes.**

**Total running time is: 114 minutes.**

**Bonus Material Highlights are: "Search & Destroy" (Stooges) featuring Howlin' Pelle (The Hives), "I Got a Right" (Stooges) featuring Nicke Borg (Backyard Babies) & Odd (Robots), Vintage home video clip of The Hellcopters second ever gig, Dregen singing "Didn't Stop Us" (only ever performed live once), plus an hour of outtakes from 'Goodnight Cleveland'.**

**[www.hellcopters.com](http://www.hellcopters.com)**

**[www.escapi.com](http://www.escapi.com)**

**Goodnight Streatham! – Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 / 020 8769 6713  
25th February 2004.**

# Hellcopters Biography

## 5 Men, 10 Balls Live...

Right from the start, it is obvious The Hellcopters are a real rock band. Hailing from Scandinavia, they have a unique ear for American rock 'n' roll. The Hellcopters gather their influences purely from the music, unencumbered by the social and political stigmas that would affect an American band. They are not concerned with what is cool or hip. Looking from the outside in, they have managed to produce a sound more authentically rock 'n' roll than any band from America could in the 21st century.

## Jesus Just Left Stockholm...

This of course is nothing new. British bands like **The Yardbirds** and **The Rolling Stones** did the same thing in the 60's. They studied long forgotten and over-looked musical treasures from a far away land and reinvented a raved-up version that they then sold back to the land of its originator. The geographic distance from the source of inspiration was essential to the musical mutation. And in order to fully understand the true value of their own musical heritage, Americans needed the Brit's regurgitated rock 'n' roll re-interpretations to wake them up. This time around, five Swedes are leading the way.

## Long Hair, Long nights...

Long-time childhood friends **Nicke Royale** and **Kenny Håkansson** absorbed their early musical influences (bands like **KISS**, **The Ramones**, and **Slayer**) in much the same way that **Jagger** and **Richards** did before them, spending many a day after school soaking up the sounds from their hard won vinyl collection. Musicologists of the highest order, today all the guys in **The Hellcopters** are both masters and disciples infusing their own brand of rock with a sincere reverence and overall love of music so strong you can taste it.

## Hellstory...

Before **The Hellcopters** formed in 1994, **Nicke** was writing songs and drumming in the Swedish death metal combo **Entombed**. During a break in the action, he asked 3 of his former drum roadies to make some music with him. No master plan, they just wanted to put out a single. **Robert Eriksson** recalls bumping into **Nicke** on the subway in Stockholm, "Nicke said 'Hey! You play drums right? Perfect. I'm starting a new band and I'm gonna play guitar and sing, and you are the drummer!' I was like O.K. sure. How can you say no to that?" Small details like the fact that Kenny didn't even have a bass would be worked out later.

Most bands headed for a major label deal work like this: they write some songs, wait to get signed, wait to get the budget to record, wait for the record company to release the album... Just plain too much waiting. And waiting leads to too much thinking, and that never leads to good rock 'n' roll. Then these waiters end up playing a bunch of songs in concert that they wrote years earlier, with no hope of conveying the original spark that gave birth to the song in the first place. The end result can be heard on any commercial robot radio station: a bunch of good actors faking their tunes for a mindless mass market.

## The Action Rock Gravy Train...

All the while, **The Hellcopters** keep on keepin' it real. Their secret is simple.

First, just play music that gets you off. Others will follow because truth-in-rock is contagious. Secondly, keep that music makin' muscle moving. Write, record, and release records by any means necessary. Get them out before they cool down.

**The Hellcopters** have put out so many records there is no point counting. Their previous album for Universal, "Cream of the Crap! Collected Non-Album Works: Volume 1" compiles 18 songs from various singles and EP's and that's just volume one with volume two (and maybe three) on the way. That kind of action rock proliferation is unheard of these days.

Here's another example of the **Copter** work ethic. The band just recorded 20 songs for their latest record, "By The Grace of God". They only used 13 songs on the album, yet they still feel the need to go into the studio this weekend to record 3 or 4 more songs for use as b-sides etc. As **John Lee**

**Hooker** once sang via **Led Zeppelin**, "It's in him, and it's got to come out! Gotta let that boy B-B-B-Boooooogie!"

### **Even Hookier...**

Every record in the **The Hellcopters** catalogue, from the caveman grind of the first 7" single "Killing Allan" to "By the Grace of God" moves down a straight line getting tighter and hookier. The bands first two full-length records, 1996's Swedish Grammy winning "Supershitty to the Max!" and 1997's "Payin' the Dues" are ragged 1st take feedback soaked sonic assaults. "Grande Rock" tightened things up in 1999 and "High Visibility" earned the boys a gold record in 2000.

After a short break due to a shoulder injury suffered by **Robert Eriksson** on the bands European tour with **The Hives**, we have before us "By the Grace of God". Recorded at Polar Studios in Stockholm (where everyone from **Abba** to **Zeppelin** have recorded), **Chips K.** manned the helm again with **Michael Ilbert** handling the mix at Rommerö Studios

**The Hellcopters** throw down the gauntlet with "By the Grace of God". It plays like a greatest hits compilation. It kicks off with the first single "By the Grace of God" and steamrolls ahead non-stop without one throw-away. Hell, it may even contain the world's first death metal power pop hit with "The Exorcist". "By the Grace of God" boils down to a peerless collection of 13 classic rock songs destined for the airwaves. Take your pick they're all winners.

"By the Grace of God" also marks the first song writing offerings from **Boba Fet** (the enigmatic "Charlie Watts figure" of the band) and **Robert Dahlqvist**, which can only mean more evolution awaits on the horizon.

### **Thank Christ for the Copters...**

Every once in a while a record falls out of the sky like a bomb. A record with a god-dang purpose. An antidote for the drivel we have been subjected to for the last decade (a Nevermind, a **Ramones**, a Paranoid, a Hound Dog). By the Grace of God is that record for 2002 and **The Hellcopters** the saviours... and I know a whole lotta folk need saving just about now.

Rock 'n' Roll Never Forgets,  
Jim Heneghan  
Stockholm  
September 9, 2002