

= The Big Four : Live from Sofia , Bulgaria =

The Big Four : Live from Sofia , Bulgaria is a DVD / Blu @-@ ray featuring live concert performances by Metallica , Slayer , Megadeth , and Anthrax , collectively known as " the big four " of thrash metal . The event took place on June 22 , 2010 at the Sonisphere Festival at Vasil Levski National Stadium , Sofia , Bulgaria . Before its DVD release , it was shown at 450 movie theaters in the United States and over 350 movie theaters across Europe , Canada , and Latin America on June 22 , 2010 .

Critical reviews of the DVD were mostly favorable . Websites such as AllMusic and About.com were positive , though Blogcritics gave the DVD a mixed review . The DVD peaked at number one on the United States , United Kingdom , Austrian , and Canadian charts , and also charted on three other charts . It was certified gold in Germany , and provided Slayer with its first platinum certification .

= = Background and release = =

On Wednesday , June 16 , 2010 at the Sonisphere Festival at Bemowo Airport in Warsaw , Poland , the " big four " ? Metallica , Slayer , Megadeth , and Anthrax performed together for the first time . The members of the four bands (except for Slayer 's Jeff Hanneman) were first photographed together on the previous day . Their live concert , on June 22 , was for one night only . Directed by Nick Wickham , the event was filmed and transmitted via satellite to over 450 movie theaters in the United States and over 350 movie theaters across Europe , Canada , and Latin America , including London 's famed Leicester Square . Tickets were made available for around \$ 20 at TheBigFourLive.com , which also listed the theaters where the concert was being screened . Delayed screenings took place in Australia , South Africa and New Zealand .

The film 's contents and artwork were revealed on August 25 , 2010 . A limited @-@ edition guitar pick was unveiled a day after the artwork was revealed . The European release was initially scheduled for October 11 , but Metallica later announced on their official site that the European release would be pushed back to October 15 , with an International release on October 18 , and a North American release on October 19 , 2010 . On September 15 , it was announced that a " super deluxe " limited edition box set would be released on the same date as the regular edition , and a 36 @-@ second video preview of the box set was released on September 17 . In mid September , publication was postponed further to a European release on October 29 , an International release on November 1 , and a North American release on November 2 , 2010 . Four teaser clips from the video were released on October 12 , and nine days later , Metallica 's performance of " Sad but True " , taken from the film , was released . A three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ minute trailer was released on September 21 , 2010 .

The Slayer title card before the band 's performance is the only one of the four bands that did not feature their official logo . In addition , all Slayer members (except drummer Dave Lombardo) did not participate in the ' Am I Evil ? ' performance due to lack of interest .

= = Event dates = =

= = Reception = =

The album was received positively by music critics . Thom Jurek gave it four out of five stars in his review for AllMusic , and stated that " each [song] is incredibly energetic , clearly riding the crowd excitement of the event , and the performances are stellar without a lapse . " He pointed to Anthrax 's " Madhouse " and " Antisocial " ; Megadeth 's " Head Crusher " and the " Peace Sells / Holy Wars Reprise " ; Slayer 's " Angel of Death " , " Seasons in the Abyss " , and " Raining Blood " ; and Metallica 's " Fade to Black " , " Creeping Death " , " Master of Puppets " , and " For Whom the Bell Tolls " as musical highlights , and described the encore performance of " Am I Evil ? " , in which members of all four bands perform , as " an historic high point . "

In a mixed review for Blogcritics , Chris Beaumont summed up that " Watching these promo DVDs makes me want the Blu @-@ ray that much more . The performances are great , the sets are great , and it is hard not to get excited about these guys taking the stage together . This is metal . "

Chad Bowar , writing for About.com , said that the concert was " one of the defining moments and biggest events in recent metal history " and commented that the bands " can still put on a great show " despite their age . He distinguished the styles of each band , writing : " Anthrax has a more lighthearted , fun approach , while Megadeth is 100 percent business with very little banter and focus on the music . Slayer has a more ominous vibe , although their evil mystique has lessened over the years . Metallica were very inclusive , with James Hetfield acting as everybody 's favorite uncle interacting with the crowd and taking time to soak it all in . "

= = Charts and certificates = =

= = Contents = =

The DVD 's contents can be verified by AllMusic and the DVD 's notes .

= = = Anthrax = = =

DVD 1 / BD 1 / CD 1

= = = Megadeth = = =

DVD 1 / BD 1 / CD 2

= = = Slayer = = =

DVD 1 / BD 1 / CD 3

= = = Metallica = = =

DVD 2 / BD 2 / CD 4 & 5

DVD Bonus Feature : DVD 2 / BD 2

Behind the scenes documentary backstage at Sonisphere , including interviews and " Am I Evil ? " rehearsal footage .

= = Personnel = =

A complete list can be found at AllMusic .

Production and assistance