



# METALLICA

## THE BIGGEST BANG

*With a festival and a 3D movie, Metallica are back in action this summer*

*By David Fricke*

**T**HIS IS A HISTORIC OCCASION. On a recent afternoon in their studios north of San Francisco, Metallica are playing the whole of their biggest album, 1991's *Metallica*, a.k.a. the Black Album, in sequence for the first time, playing it backward, starting with the emotionally wracked finale, "The Struggle Within," and ending with the exultant menace of "Enter Sandman." "It doesn't say anything that if you play an album in its entirety, you have to play it front to back," drummer Lars Ulrich contends.

Ulrich, singer-guitarist James Hetfield, guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Robert Trujillo will perform the Black Album in full at Mexico City's Rock in Rio festival, to be held June 23rd-24th in Atlantic City. They'll also stomp through 1984's *Ride the Lightning*, another first.

As the members explain in these interviews, before and after practice, this is a momentous occasion. The band's run in Mexico City will feature an extraneous new stage that is a component of the 3D movie Metallica are developing with director Nimród Antal. And with Orson Welles' *Macbeth* in mind, Metallica are launching a personalized tour of the world's great opera houses. Ulrich is programming a film tour; Hammett is the host of Kirk's Crypt, devoted to his collection of horror movie memorabilia. Everyone in the band had a load say in the wide range of acts on the tour.

"Do your festival, do your movie—it's all so cool," Ulrich raves. "Variety is the spice of life."

**UNKILLABLE** James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Kirk Hammett and Robert Trujillo (from left)

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