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Oil City Confidential (MVD)

Someone tells you to watch a documentary about some nuclear accident in 1974 or what nasty

crap goes into our food, and you might jump right in, ready to learn something new. When it comes to music docs though, many often gravitate towards watching a doc about a band they probably already knew about, and the music at least will make it go down easy in case it's another lame documentary, of which there are an ocean's worth since the advent of good small digital cameras. Well anyway, don't flake on Oil City Confidential, even if you never heard of its subject, Dr. Feelgood. I say that only because one, it is a monstrously good documentary, directed by the great Julian Temple. Even given his modern rock doc classics like *The Filth & the Fury* and *The Future is Unwritten*, this might be his best. But while watching the rare live clips here of Dr. Feelgood, you get the feeling your cat could've cobbled together a watchable doc about this intense band. These British pub rock masters never made much of a peep on the U.S. charts. But they were huge in the UK, musically and chartwise. Their mid-70s heyday was filled with packed clubs of sweaty, extremely drunken fans clamoring for something other than lobotomized, early-70s fringe-folk and flute-flourishing stadium rock tedium. They got it in spades once the Damned, Sex Pistols, the Clash, et al came kicking around the island a couple years later, deeply indebted to Dr. Feelgood's manic energy and dug up/spat out roots rock racket.