



THE CRAMPS
Live at Napa
State Mental
Hospital
(MVD Video)

You know, if someone had wanted to create a music DVD just for me, they couldn't have come up with anything better than The Cramps live in a mental institution. Now I'll tell you right up front that the camera work is pretty crappy, and the sound is mediocre at best. But it's worth every goddamn penny of the price to see Lux Interior lovingly embrace a female patient who is screaming unintelligibly into the mike and to see the bemused look on Brian Gregory's face as he watches a patient bang his head into a wall in time with the music. From what I can surmise, it would appear that way back in 1978 some smartass punk rocker who worked at said nut house decided that since The Cramps were going to be in town anyway, why not convince the unsuspecting nut house bosses to have them provide some much needed entertainment for the inmates. The Cramps obviously relished the idea and put on a show for said loonies.

Whenever loonies and art come together in modern times you hear the tired cliché of how difficult it is to tell the insane from the sane. Blah, blah, blah. Well, in this video, there's a blond punk rock chick

constantly interacting with Lux, and I can't figure out if she's just there to see The Cramps and is absolutely blotto or if she's a guest of the State of California. Ah yes, the days when your parents could, and did, commit you for having a funny haircut and going to see The Ramones... but I digress. If you don't see this video you deserve to be committed. Except The Cramps will not be playing at Eastern State.

— Mr. Malcontent



IGGY AND THE STOOGES
Live in Detroit (2003)
(MVD Video)

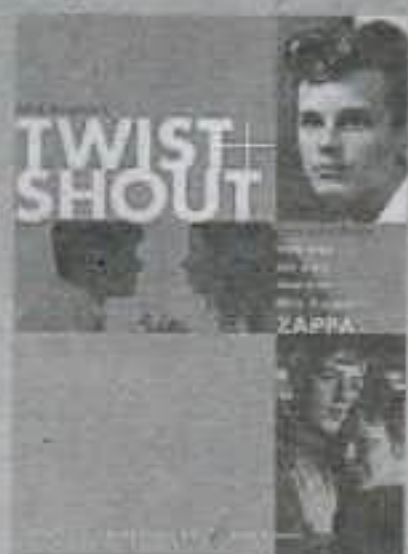
So after 29 years The Stooges got back together, with Mike Watt on bass filling in for the deceased Dave Alexander, and played a few shows in the U.S. during the spring and summer of 2003. What the hell, you say, how come I didn't hear about this? Well that's probably because there were only four shows, and the closest one to Virginia was on Long Island.

Don't despair, because when The Stooges came home to roost in their birthplace, Detroit, the lunheads at the recently resurrected *Creem* magazine had the foresight to film the show. And what a show it was, baby. Iggy and company came out like it was 1969 all across Detroit, all over again. Iggy's wigglin and wailin, Ron Asheton's rockin, Scott Asheton's poundin' and Watt was thumpin' and they're all having a great time and so was the audience.

Hell, seeing The Stooges all these years later might actually be a more satisfying experience than way back in 1973. True, these new shows might lack the blood, drugs, and mayhem of the old days, but in 2003, Iggy can actually get through more than four songs before passing out or being

knocked out by flying debris. They played all of the songs from *The Stooges* and *Funhouse*, except for two duds, and "Skull Ring" from the new Iggy album. Even though I've heard these songs literally thousands of times, I found myself singing along and feeling genuinely excited watching this. Screw all the other Iggy videos and endless Stooges bootleg dreck—this is what you want.

— Mr. Malcontent



ZAPPA
Twist and Shout/Zappa
(Criterion)

Zappa is set in 1961 Copenhagen and looks at the troubled friendship of Bjorn, Sten and Mulle, three boys obsessed with sex, drinking and trouble — and beginning to experiment with all three.

The leader of the gang is Sten, a deeply disturbed, sadistic boy from a wealthy family whose parents are too self-absorbed to give him attention, affection or discipline. Sten goads the basically good, well-adjusted kids — Bjorn and Mulle — into committing increasingly dangerous robberies. Zappa happens to be the name of Sten's carnivorous fish, to which he delightedly feeds live guppies — a tad heavy on the symbolism, there.

When Bjorn and Mulle begin to back off from Sten's escalating violence and lawlessness, he retaliates, provoking the two boys to lash out at him. This is a solid, mostly convincing portrayal of peer pressure, as well as what can happen when parents don't pay enough attention to their children.

Twist & Shout is set in 1963 with the same actors playing Bjorn and his family carried over from the previous film. Bjorn is now a more self-assured high school student and a drummer in a Beatles cover band. His best friend is Erik, a sweet, sensitive kid whose father forces him to spend his free time nursing his emotionally ill mother. Meanwhile Bjorn breaks up with his spoiled, superficial girlfriend, Kirsten (the same actress played her in *Zappa*), because he's fallen for Anna, a warmer, more earthy type. Moments of high drama follow both of these story lines, which come together satisfyingly by the film's end.

The only special feature is a Bille August filmography. (Full-screen, 1983 & 1984, unrated but both contain nudity, violence and sex.)

— Peggy Earle

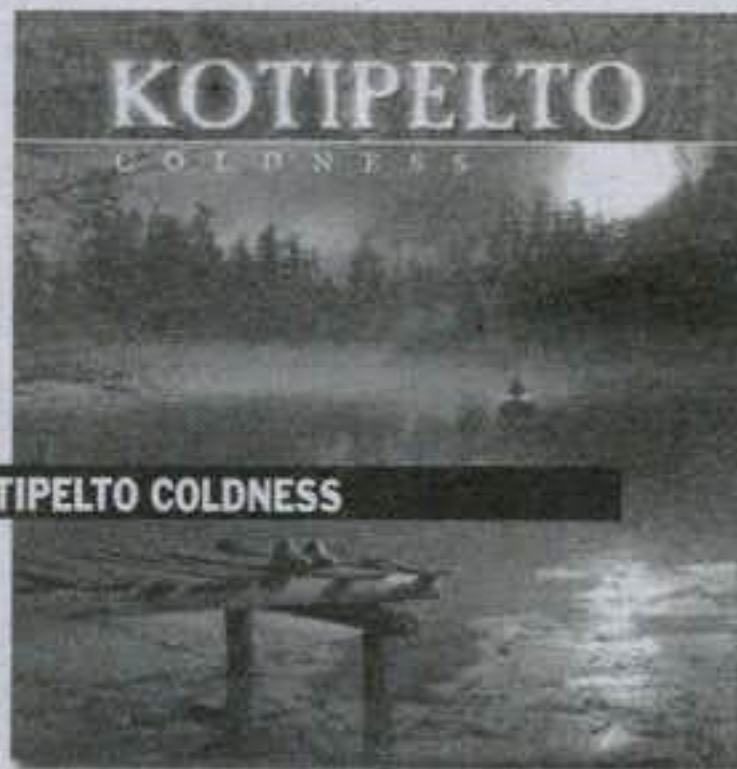
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