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dvds

BY BRENT HAGERMAN, SEAN PALMERSTON AND ERIC SCHULZ

**DEAD KENNEDYS**  
In God We Trust, Inc.: The Lost Tapes (MVD)

IN JUNE 1981 punk rock legends the Dead Kennedys recorded the EP *In God We Trust, Inc.* When the band went to mix the EP they discovered that the tape used to record the session had deteriorated and could not be used. Therefore, the band had to go back into the studio in August 1981 and re-record the entire album. It is this August '81 session that fans have grown up with.

Now, for the first time ever, MVD has unleashed the original June '81 sessions onto DVD. Through modern technology, the damaged June '81 tapes have been repaired and it just so happened that Target Video was on hand with a video camera to document that original session. So not only do you get to hear new versions of all the songs, but you get to see the band actually play and record the album. I love the concept; I wish more bands would allow their fans a peak into the recording process.

For those not in the know, *In God We Trust, Inc.* was the DK's first real foray into full blown hardcore punk. Their previous album, *Fresh Fruit For Rotting Vegetables*, was more of a '77 style punk album. IGWT is fast and short. Most punks will know the album by the song "Nazi Punks Fuck Off."

In all honesty, the June sessions don't sound all that different from the final album. "We've Got a Bigger Problem Now," "Rawhide" and "Moral Majority" have slight differences.

Still, I would definitely say punks will enjoy this disc. It's great seeing a big time punk band screw up in the studio as much as my band. As well, Jello stops almost every song by saying "hold it, it's too slow."

As a very cool and welcome bonus, every song on the album is also presented with a live version. I've seen a bunch of DK bootleg videos and the ones included here are great quality. Jello is in full flight, throwing punches, kicking audiences members and jumping around. As well, the live version of "Kepone Factory" is from '79 and quite different (slow, different lyrics...etc). Great DVD! [ES]

**IF I SHOULD FALL FROM GRACE: THE SHANE MACGOWAN STORY**

(MVD)

USING ARCHIVAL LIVE footage and interviews with some of The Pogues,

MacGowan's family, his girlfriend and the man himself, *The Shane MacGowan Story* traces the notorious drinker's rise to fame, his inevitable fall off the bar stool, and his shaky reunion with the band.

The film posits that the band's early success was due to the fact that they started in London at a time when it was vastly unpopular to wave your Irish heritage around. The initial energy ejaculated into music by the punk movement had largely given way to

synth pop and the Pogues' roguish take on traditional Irish music, along with MacGowan's celebration of working class Irish life, sparked a much needed cultural revolution for the the Irish diaspora in London.

It is no surprise that MacGowan's addictions eventually take centre stage in the documentary. Friends and colleagues offer anecdotes of Pogue lifestyle on the road, reasons for MacGowan's eventual ejection from the band and conclude that, to paraphrase Nick Cave, a man's demons are his own prerogative.

MacGowan's dental hygiene is a source of awe throughout the film, especially for the camera man who takes every opportunity to showcase it. This heightens the film's drama as you are sure that at any moment one of MacGowan's remaining incisors will drop into his drink. In fact, after watching this DVD you'll give up alcohol altogether and dedicate your life to flossing.

Watching the film is a bit like viewing an episode of *The Osbournes*, with MacGowan playing the bumbling drunk with a hideous laugh that would scare Gollum.

While the doc does a very good job condensing a lengthy period of rock history into just under two hours, nothing is mentioned about MacGowan's solo career, the band is underrepresented in interviews and, despite a largely inaudible conversa-

tion with Clash bassist Paul Simonon, hopes of lost footage of Joe Strummer and The Pogues remain unrequited. Oh ya, and subtitles would be nice. [BH]

**JUDAS PRIEST**

*Electric Eye (Legacy/Sony)*

WISELY RELEASED AS a primer to the upcoming reunion proper of Rob Halford rejoining Judas Priest — scheduled to take place this summer and to be preceded by a boxset chronicling their entire history — this compilation DVD highlights both the best and worst times of the Halford-led era of the band.

Collecting 13 of their music videos (most from their '80s heyday), a live concert film from 1986 (their popularity peak but arguably their worst period musically) and six UK television appearances that date back to the '70s, *Electric Eye* has it all. A number of their videos will be familiar to '80s metal fans. "Breaking The Law," "Freewheel Burning" and "Love Bites" were video show faves, while others, such as the terribly cheesy and overplayed "Turbo Lover" reek even more decades on.

The *Priest... Live* home video film is offered up in its entirety, newly mixed in 5.1 surround and it hasn't aged well. The band performs to a sold out arena in Dallas, Texas on their Turbo tour and look completely ridiculous, having bought into the hair metal trends of the late '80s. A mulleted Rob Halford leads his overdressed troops through a full

set that covers their entire career. They sound great, but look like caricatures of themselves. The highlight of the collection is the television appearances section, which dates back to the mid-'70s.

Taking performances from both the *Olde Grey Whistle Test* and *Top Of The Pops*, these previously unseen gems feature the band live (for the most part) at their peak, leading up to and including songs from their *Killing Machine* album. These six tracks made this collection indispensable, even if the *Priest...Live* film is a total embarrassment.

Extras: Digitally remastered in 5.2 Surround (except the television appearances), detailed band discography. [SP]

[what's your opinion? comment@echoweekly.com]

