

Iggy Pop! Live in San Fran 1981 Music Video Distributors By 1981, Iggy Pop was on his third or even fourth career. He'd already flamed out twice at the helm of the legendary Stooges, once in 1971 when the group was dropped from its label and a second time in 1974 when even the second- chance band couldn't keep away from various white powders. And his ride- along on David Bowie's Berlin period had drawn to a close, resulting in his first two solo records, *The Idiot* and *Lust for Life* . Pop flapped uncertainly away from Bowie's ambisexual nest no richer, but with better name recognition and a new label, Arista, which released *Party* in 1981.

The footage captured here shows a sharp band (including sometime Bowie guitarist Carlos Alomar and Blondie drummer Clem Burke) playing a set of songs mostly culled from that record, but also including a couple of Stooges

gems like " TV Eye" and " 1969." Fronted by a typically manic Pop — resplendent in a biker hat, leather jacket, too- short black miniskirt and garter belt — the sound and setting will be familiar to anyone who has ever been to a punk show: The guitars overwhelm the vocals early in the set, and the room is packed to the rafters with rabid devotees, poseurs and misfits. (Haven't seen a reverse- mohawk in quite some time...)

That said, the songs show why Iggy gets name- dropped so often, especially the Stooges years: He really was onto something different — proto- punk, if you will. Pop's music isn't exactly punk, nor is it exactly Detroit rock — it's a nasty, primitive joyously unselfconscious combination of the two. Add to it his real specialty — his nutty, spastic flailing, somewhere between seizure and performance art — and you've got a unique performer captured at a unique time in Pop history, as well as pop history.

– Kurt Brighton

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