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Live 1980 [DualDisc] [Jewel Case] Devo

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Review

There's no denying that Devo was one of the greatest live bands to emerge from the 'new wave era' — as their quirky sense of humor translated perfectly to the stage, with a variety of props, costumes, and projection screens. For visual proof once and for all, all you have to do is check out the 2005 CD/DVD dual disc, 'Live 1980.' Recorded at a show at the Phoenix Theater in Petaluma, CA (just before "Whip It" and Freedom of Choice raced up the charts), this complete set, pro-shot performance features surprisingly strong sound and picture - something that bootleg collectors will agree is becoming increasingly hard to find from the pre-MTV era. This is the Devo period right before they became perhaps a bit too obsessed with electronics (1982's h No! It's Devo, 1984's Shout, etc.), as the quintet appears to be at their in concert peak throughout. With only three albums of material to choose from at this point, there are quite a few interesting tracks that will be of interest to hardcore fans — "S. I.B. (Swelling Itching Brain)," "Secret Agent Man," "Be Stiff," etc. That said, all the pre-1981 Devo classics are here as well — "Whip It," "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," "Freedom of Choice," "Jocko Homo," "Smart Patrol/Mr. DNA," etc. Out of the various live Devo DVD's out on the market, 'Live 1980' is by far the best yet. An essential purchase for both spuds and new wave revivalists.

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by Greg Prato

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