

DEVO - Live 1980 DualDisc - MVD 2005



Look, I've got a message for all the people in the world, and it's called "Shut up!"

JOB INTERVIEW PERSON: "Hi Mark Prindle! I've called you in for a job interview, but guess what? There's NOT ACTUALLY A JOB AVAILABLE! We're just collecting resumes because so many talented people are out of work right now, and who knows? Maybe one of our employees will DIE, and we can call you in to replace him! Ha ha! Sorry to have gotten your hopes up! Ha ha!"

Me: "Shut up! This has happened to me like FOUR TIMES in the last two months! If you don't have an actual job opening, DON'T PUT OUT AN AD!!!!"

SNOOTY LIBERAL: "Typical American...."

Me: "Shut up! There are only *two* characteristics that differentiate Americans from the rest of the world: (a) rampant obesity and (b) 50-year-old men wearing white tennis shoes. If you think ignorance, arrogance, greed, violence, sexism and love of sport are exclusively American traits, try visiting any other country on the planet, asshole!"

PSYCHIATRIST LADY: "This medication is good because it helps you get more deep sleep. The older you are, the less deep sleep you get because your body is getting ready for death. Also, if you don't get up at 4:00 AM and go to bed at like 5 in the afternoon every day, your equilibrium will be off and you'll get a divorce and die alone."

Me: "Shut up! Just give me the damn prescriptions; I don't pay to hear your shitty accent."

ANYONE: "You're bald."

Me: "Shut up! I have plenty of hair; it's just clear."

So you see, sometimes in life, when things aren't going your way and it seems like you'll never get back up on that horse, when the chips are stacked against you and you're feeling down and away, when the checks are cashed and the sky is falling all around you, when you're feeling old and bloated and your shoes are covered in blood, when you're dying of rigor mortis and you can't find a shovel, when your penis keeps growing not because you're aroused but because you're in an XXX-rated Pinocchio movie, when you tell your cat to eat a mouse and it mishears you and eats your spouse, when the only thing on the TV is a reminder to pay the cable bill, when your genital crabs decide to head north for the winter, when your favorite pizza place changes its menu options from "hamburger, sausage, pepperoni" to "vegetables, dirt, urine sample," it's times like these when you

have to stand up, point your finger and yell, "Shut your ass!" or whatever it was I said up there, a while back now.

If I were asked to describe a Devo concert in one word, that word would be "Choreography." And for a discolored, poorly lit and fuzzily filmed record of that choreography at the peak of its grandeur, look no further than MVD's DVD release of an old Target Video tape! In addition to excellent musical performances of 6 **Q: Are We Not Men?** tracks (8 if you count the bonus material), 5 **Duty Now**, 7 **Freedom Of Choice** and "Be Stiff," you are invited to enjoy such light-hearted physical antics as:

- the band performing the first 14 songs while wearing silly yellow Devo suits and red upside-down toilet hats
- lots of robotic, *Coneheads*-style body movements
- the band members all hopping on one leg during the intro to "Snowball"
- Mark racing around the stage, beating at his head and ripping at his clothes for "Swelling Itching Brain"
- the band hitting the front of the stage in their infamous 'diamond formation' for the end of "Uncontrollable Urge"
- Mark saying "Baby" a record-breaking 66 times in "Satisfaction"
- Mark hopping around the stage as Gerald and Bob sing "Mongoloid"
- Mark doing Jumping Jacks at the side of the stage as Gerald sings "Be Stiff"
- The band stripping down to black Devo t-shirts, tiny black shorts, red knee pads, pink socks and black shoes for the last five songs
- Mark standing between Gerald's and Bob's mic stands for the closing of "Freedom Of Choice," so that they can circle around him, trading mics for each repetition of the song title
- Gerald performing a funny little 4-step dance to accompany the four rising synth notes in "Jocko Homo"
- The stage going dark in the middle of "Jocko Homo" so that the band can leave the stage and return wearing blacklit boards reading "D," "E," "V" and "O," allowing the audience to see nothing but the letters bouncing up and down onstage in the dark
- Mark slapping himself silly during "Slap Your Mammy"
- Mark donning a blue jacket and cowboy hat for "Come Back Jonee," then proceeding to wipe his face, hair, arse and crotch with tissues before tossing them Elvis-like into the crowd
- An unidentified band member wearing an alien head mask to sing along with the set-closing "Tunnel Of Life" video
- (in the bonus material): 1979 footage of the band wearing tacky suits and visors to perform "Praying Hands" and "Shrivel Up" as their Christian altar ego 'Dove'
- (in the bonus material): Recent clips of the older, slower, greyer and heavier band performing some of their oldtimey classics, through all the fat

Being a DualDisc, the DVD also comes with an audio-only CD side, but for some reason they left "Jocko Homo" off of it so stick with the DVD side. The only performance-related complaints I would make are that the sad and beautiful "Snowball" suffers from its lack of harmony vocal (you'd think one of the other band members could've performed

it; not sure why they didn't), "Satisfaction" is either missing its second guitar/synth riff or it's too quiet to hear, and "Mongoloid" is uglified by over-distorted off-key vocals (in Gerald's defense, he looks exhausted from all the previous running around). And I personally could've done without "It's Not Right" and "Freedom Of Choice" in the set list, but that's personal preference and they *were* touring that album after all.

In conclusion, Mark Mothersbaugh does not smile at any point during this performance. Is he an unhappy man?