

Devo - Live 1980 (DVD)

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Target Video

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With 80s nostalgia being de rigueur these days, the time is ripe for a DEVO reunion. The reclusive new wave band usually doesn't tour much as original founder Mark Mothersbaugh has since moved on to creating commercials and soundtracks at his Los Angeles production company Mutato Muzika (that fantastically weird space-ship-looking building on Sunset Boulevard) along with the other Devo members save Jerry Casale who has been directing videos for such bands as the Foo Fighters and Soundgarden. However, this summer Devo got together and played limited dates all across the country--and this fall they released Live 1980, a full-length concert video shot at the Phoenix Theatre in Petaluma, CA on August 17, 1980. Complete with white uniforms, blue background screen and "energy domes" (don't you dare call them flower-pot hats), Devo play the hits off of their albums, *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We are Devo!*, *Duty Now For the Future* and *Freedom of Choice*. Twenty-one songs are featured in this 75-minute disc including the classic MTV staple "Whip It", the oft-covered "Girl U Want", and their own covers of Johnny River's classic "Secret Agent Man" and the Rolling Stones "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction".

What is most interesting (or frightening) about this DVD isn't so much the music, which is wonderful to see live right before Devo catapulted into super-stardom, but the pseudo-intellectual ideas that Devo was formed upon: that America is a conformist, non-thinking society. Their attacks on the Reagan nation being "a culture driven by fear" is eerily similar to our country's current political climate. Perhaps devolution is real and more than just a cute catchphrase for a bunch of art-school musicians.

The only drawback to this live DVD is the camera time spent on Mothersbaugh, which could have been more evenly dispersed throughout the band, especially when humorous electronic touches crept into their songs, and seeing their complete instrumental set-up from different angles would have been enlightening. Still, given the time period and technology, this is an impressive live DVD not only for truly Devo-ated spuds, but hopefully for a generation of fans who have only felt the vague influence of Devo.

Track List:

01. Whip It
02. Snowball
03. Its Not Right
04. Girl U Want
05. Planet Earth
06. S.I.B. (Swelling Itching Brain)
07. Secret Agent Man
08. Pink Pussycat
09. Blockhead
10. (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction
11. Uncontrollable Urge
12. Mongoloid
13. Be Stiff
14. Gates of Steel
15. Freedom of Choice
16. Jocko Homo
17. Smart Patrol/ Mr.DNA
18. Gut Feeling/Slap Your Mammy
19. Come Back Jonee
20. Tunnel of Life
21. Devo Corporate Anthem

➔ For more information on Devo see [Club Devo Web site](#)

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