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New York Dolls: All Dolled Up

The profile of the New York Dolls have never been higher, thanks to the recent documentary about the band's late bassist, Arthur "Killer" Kane, as well as original members David Johansen and Syl Sylvain reviving the group to release a new album. If you caught "New York Doll" (the aforementioned doc) and you're looking for more of the band's story, "All Dolled Up" is just what the doctor ordered. Photographer Bob Gruen and his wife, Nadya, purchased a video recorder in the early '70s (which was a hell of an investment, if you recall how much they cost back then) and, for about three years, followed the Dolls around. They ended up with FORTY HOURS of footage, and, belatedly, Gruen has finally gotten around to compiling the best bits for this DVD and had it mixed into 5.1 surround sound. The set includes twelve full-length song performances, bits and pieces of others, commentary tracks from Gruen as well as Johansen and Sylvain, and an interview with Gruen done by another New York punk legend, "Handsome" Dick Manitoba. The quality of the footage varies, but the content is consistently invaluable for fans of the burgeoning New York music scene of the '70s, where the Dolls were taking glam and evolving it into punk. Watch their legend unfold before your very eyes. ~Will Harris

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