

FMQB

DOLLY BIRDS...Adorned in lipstick and leather, The New York Dolls were the grand misfits of Manhattan, five high-heeled musical misanthropes glammed out and dipping into a musical stew brewing with prime Rolling Stones, Yardbirds, Sixties girl groups and Motown. From KISS to Aerosmith, The Sex Pistols to The Ramones, Guns 'N Roses to The Smiths, Nirvana to Smashing Pumpkins, all of those aforementioned bands owe a huge debt of thanks to the Dolls as their ride to success couldn't have happened without them.

An exceptional new DVD, *All Dolled Up (MVD)*, provides a compelling look at the decadent offstage and onstage adventures of the band--singer David Johansen, guitarists Syl Sylvain and Johnny Thunders, bassist Arthur "Killer" Kane and drummer Jerry Nolan. Culling over 40 hours of vintage B&W footage of live performances, candid interviews, a TV appearance on "The Real Don Steele Show", backstage exploits, and colorful on the road clips shot by celebrated rock photographer Bob Gruen and his wife, Nadya Beck, the documentary offers a compellingwarts and all portrait of a band truly living life on the edge. It ain't always pretty but trust me, you won't be able to take your eyes off of screen.

Particularly captivating is the explosive footage of the band kickin' out the jams Dolls style at New York's famed Max's Kansas City, Kenny's Castaways, and L.A., Whisky-A-Go-Go. Songs include "Looking For A Kiss," "Personality Crisis," "Human Being," "Trash," "Private World," "Vietnamese Baby," Bo Diddley's "Pills," "Teenage News," "Chatterbox," "Who Are The Mystery Girls?", "Babylon," "Jet Boy", "Subway Train," "Bad Detective," "Down Down Downtown," "Pirate Love," "Great Big Kiss", "Frankenstein" and Willie Dixon's "Hootchie Coochie Man." Augmented by a 16-page booklet packed with rare photos, the DVD includes a generous supplement of bonus features includes commentary by Gruen and members, Johansen and Sylvain, full performances of 12 songs, a photo gallery and interview with Gruen conducted by "Handsome" Dick Manitoba of The Dictators.

- Ken Burke