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VIDEO REVIEW

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## New York Dolls - All Dolled Up

New York Dolls  
Music Video Distributors

In 1972, a group of wild and extravagant teenagers from New York began raucously yelling and trashing through vintage blues sounds while dressed in drag. There are probably still some old school Mississippi delta bluesmen that have never heard of these white kids playing their music while dressed in women's clothes; and if you told one of those rugged old men, they might just fall over dead. But that's just what the New York Dolls were: five weird, Kinks and Stones inspired white kids with not a whole hell of a lot of talent playing sloppy blues who somehow managed to contribute to three genres: punk rock, glam, as well as the horror that was 80s hair metal.

I knew that a documentary on a band like the New

York Dolls could not possibly be boring. Oh, how I was wrong. For the most part, the entire DVD is an hour and half of black and white footage that bounces back and forth from skuzzy live footage, obnoxious interviews, and sleazy after show partying. The disc is flat and seemingly pointless, but the footage is so weird that I could not stop watching it. I actually found it freaking fascinating. Although, I didn't take many quotable phrases or memorable moments from this thing, I did experience one strange ass video. It was almost as if I was having a bad dream that I secretly enjoyed.



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Most of this rather fuzzy film and completely raw footage features a drugged-out group of teens wearing lipstick, trying on different styles of women's clothes and making out with each other. *All Dolled Up*, which is the title of this amateurish film, catches the band in their early stages and everyone in the group seems to be getting along alright for the most part, although if you pay close enough attention, you can see signs of Johnny Thunders already beginning to tire of the ridiculously fast paced rock 'n roll lifestyle the band was living, or maybe it was just the heroin. The video however, never shows any actual drug use, with the exception of a random fan rolling a joint at a huge

## DETAILS

**Rating:** ★★☆☆

**Genre:** rock

**Credits:** MVD

**Author:** David Fox

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Halloween bash the band threw in New York. It never shows any band tension. In fact, it doesn't really give any insight into the band's history or real life stories. It just manages to capture that short moment in time when the Dolls were new and exciting and fun.

Eventually, of course, they would prove to be just too much for the world at that time and implode, but the video does nothing to inform you of that either; you have to go do your own research.

Indeed, the strange madness that is *All Dolled Up*, is one for the true fan. I suspect that only a Dolls enthusiast could handle or be entertained by this drab film. In other words, I don't think this one will be winning any independent film awards, much less the attention of viewers who thrive on dirt and excitement for their entertainment. If you're looking for good material on the history and lives of this obscure little band, you're out of luck. There isn't much out there, which is unfortunate considering how immensely imitated these guys would prove to be a few years later. It is for this reason that the film is so interesting. Everyone knows who the Dolls were, but not many of know much about them. To see them in *All Dolled Up*, was definitely a surreal experience and may be the only opportunity to catch

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*them in all their drag queen  
glory.*

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**Info**

*Run Time: 120 minutes*

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*There are no member  
reviews at this time*



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