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## SAMHAIN • Live 1984 Starland Ballroom • (Evilive/MVD)

Gery Vermin rates it: 🍊🍊🍊🍊

**SAMHAIN**  
 Live 1984 Starland Ballroom  
 (Evilive/MVD)

Legend has it that, like the early-day Misfits, Samhain was often a complete clusterfuck. So, no real surprise when that their first-ever DVD, LIVE 1984, would start with the date - November 21, 1985 - dominantly displayed. While apparently no one knows what year this event took place, all parties seem to agree on the "where", that being the now-demolished Starland Ballroom in Hollywood. Although it starts a bit shabbily both audio and video-wise, things soon shape up as Glenn Danzig, London May, Eerie Von and Steve Zing hit their stride before a dogpiled Starwood congregation... however, never quite achieving the quality of the VHS'd shows contained within the 2000-released Samhain boxset. A couple of different cameras were used, although almost exclusively at low angles... basically, Glenn looks tall, the Starwood has really shitty ceiling panels and London May has neatly groomed nosehair.



As this show took place fairly early in the Samhain saga, my favorite Samhymns - those from NOVEMBER COMING FIRE - are nowhere to be found. However, the upside of this is that it was still necessary to draw upon the Misfits songpool to fill a set (47 minutes in this case) and "Die Die My Darling", "Halloween II" and the reworked "Horror Biz" all make for fine moments. "All Murder, All Guts, All Fun", "Black Dream", "I Am Misery" and "He Who Cannot Be Named" all rev up Glenn's minions appropriately, however, I was sort've surprised that the Cali-crowd remains content to merely sing along with Glenn rather to clamber all over the stage and band members as they would in vintage Misfits footage. In fact, aside from some obnoxious dingbat that must've figure if she barked "Go-go-go-go-GO!!!" enough the band'd eventually cave and bust into "Queen Wasp", this bunch seems downright POLITE. When not providing PSA's ("They're towin' cars over at Alpha-Beta, so if you're parked there... I didn't park there, so I don't care.") and respectfully denying song requests from retardedly-quaffed bassist Eerie Von ("We ain't doin' it... we're NOT doin' it."), Glenn appears to be truly in his element and uncharacteristically enjoying himself. Even after struggling with a broken string while strumming May's Gene Simmons Axe during "Archangel", the dark dwarf breaks into an alarmingly charming and toothy feral smile. "Thanks for puttin' up with that!" You're most welcome. Would love to hear it happen again, actually.

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