

Hiya **Anonymous!**

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- Main Menu



- Home

- CREDITS/Blame

- Meat The STAPH

- DISSclaimer

- INTERviews

- Studies In SCARLET

- CRYPTIC COUNTDOWN

- 10 MOST POPULAR & MOST RECENT Reviews

- PHILGM Reviews

- MUSICK Reviews

- BOOK Reviews

- GT&FP

- ALL Reviews (A-Z)

- Staph PLAYLISTS

- 100 GREATEST Horrors Films Of ALL Time

- 100 LOUSIEST Horror Films Of ALL Time

- Heartrending EPITAPHS

- LINKS-A-Go-Go

- AD RATES

- BANNERS

SHAM 69 • In Concert: Hershams Boys • (2006 MVD)

Gery Vermin rates it:

SHAM 69

In Concert: Hershams Boys
(MVD)

What have we got?

FUCK ALL!!!

Boy AND howdy!! While there's no real whoopdee-doo over this particular documentation of Sham 69's long career - that is, not a reunion concert of the original lineup or otherwise noteworthy occasion - that doesn't keep IN CONCERT from being an extremely keen edition to your vault o' punk. Founded by vocalist/orthodontics poster lad Jimmy Pursey in 1976, dissolved, revived in 1996 and captured here in 2002 with original guitarist Dave Parsons in tow, Sham 69 are - in my ears - the greatest ensemble to come from England's early days of working class street punk and Oi!. Drummer Ian Whitewood and, especially, bassist Matt Sargent are perfect fits in this particular chapter of the Book of Sham and will hopefully still be in print when the bright, bright sunshiny day arrives during which finally I get to see the band before my very eyes. All of the Sham classics are here and accounted for ("Hershams Boys", "If The Kids Are United", "Angels With Dirty Faces", "Tell Us The Truth" and the like) as well as a handful of hymns late in the set that were personally previously unheard ("Tattoo", "Blackpool" and "September The Eleventh"). As if the songs weren't gallopers on their own, Pursey's stage blather ("This is a song for everyone's girlfriend in here, because bein' a girlfriend of a fucker that likes Sham 69, you gotta be strong... this is called 'Poor Cow'...") as well as interesting tidbits, history and quips from Pursey and Parsons are interspersed between the footage shot in Brighton, England's Concorde 2 and make the DVD's 74 minutes seem more like 7.4 instead. "Borstal Breakout" brings the Concorde 2 to it's knees (twice, no less) and the DVD to it's end... just in time to hit "Play" and do it fuck-all over again. Rejoicing, I am.

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[[Back to reviews index](#)]