Cult Clash 2.0 Page 1 of 4





-<u>| ABOUT CULT CLASH |COMMENTARY-| FEATURES-| FILM REVIEWS-| RECORDINGS| TV ON DVD| MUSIC</u> ON DVD| MOVIE/TV NEWS

| INTERNET NEWS-| BOOKS-| MUSIC NEWS |

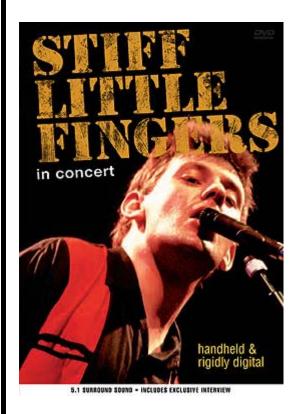
## **Stiff Little Fingers In Concert**

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Reviewed by Winslow Leach

One of punk's most beloved bands, Stiff Little Fingers are back on this new DVD from Music Video Distributors and Secret Films. The DVD combines an ex hilerrating live performance with studio sets and interviews with the band.

Stiff Little Fingers weren'tBritish or American punkers, they actually came from Belfast, Ireland. They formed in 1977. The band was fronted by Jake Burns (vocals, guitar) along with Henry Cluney (guitar), Gordon Blair (bass) and Brian Falloon (drums). The groups previous names were Highway Star and The Fast, but when they started to gain more notice they changed their name to Stiff Little Fingers (taken from a Vibrators song). When SLF first s tarted out they were mostly playing covers of their favorite punk groups like The Clash and The Damned, but their friend Gordon Ogilvie, a journalist encouraged them to start writing their own original songs based on their own views. Du ring this time, Bel fast was a very violent place and like the members of The Clash in the UK, Jake and his pals were encountering the same kinds of radicalism and violence just down the road from their homes. The band managed to record some of their song s at a local radio s tation (a place used for commercial jingles), the title of this album was Suspect Device which the band actually packaged to resemble a bomb. The bands energizing, fresh sound caught the ear of Radio DJ John Peel who loved the band so much he almost overp layed the album, leading to SLF getting a contract with the label Rough Trade Records. In 1978, the band released their first official album Inflammable Material. They then moved to London which led to Brian Falloon and co-manager Co lin McClelland I eaving the band. In 1979, SLF were signed to Chrysalis Records and in 1980 they released their second album Nobody's Heroes. Their third album, 1981's Go For It was recorded soon after. With the release of their next LP, Now Then...the band had changed th eir so und a bit and had become more pop oriented which didnt sit well with their hardcore punk listeners. This resulted in the album having low sales and their concerts weren't selling they way they had been. The band broke up soon afte r. Stiff Little Fi ngers r egrouped several times beginning in 1987 and have since changed many of the members. Through the years, the band has influenced many modern bands including Green Day and Rancid among others.

This DVD features Stiff Little Fingers in during their 1998 Hope Street Tour. They're back playing some of their signature tracks and it shows the diversity the band has. They move from angry Irish political punk, to slowed down reggae to power pop and they do it all brilliantly. This was my first introduct ion to the band. I had heard of them, but never heard their music. After listening to them play on this DVD, I can say that they are one of the best punk bands I've ever heard. SLF mixes the political punk-reggae spirit with their

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March 2006
February 2006
January 2006
December 2005
November 2005
October 2005
Meta:
Login
RSS
Comments RSS

Cult Clash 2.0 Page 3 of 4

own Irish background creating a unique sound from the big green isle. If you're a longtime fan or new to the music, this DVD is a must own! Track Listing: 1. Hope Street 2. Straw Dogs 3. Wasted Life 4. At The Edge 5. Bullet Proof 6. Barbed Wire Love 7. Root s Radicals Rockers and Reggae 8. Last Train From the Wasteland 9. She Grew Up 10. Drinkin' Again 11. Doesn't Make It Right 12, Fly The Flag
13. All The Rest 14. Suspect Device 15. Alternative Ulster 16. Johnny Was THE DVD **REGION: 1** STUDIO: Music Video Distributors/Secret Films FILM SPECS: Presented in (1:33:1) Fullscreen. Color/Black and White. Handheld and EXTRAS: Interview with Lead Singer Jake Burns. AUDIO: Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound. Turn this up on your home theater system and rock out!! BUY THIS DVD FROM MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS! No Comments » No comments yet. RSS feed for comments on this post. TrackBack URI Leave a comment Name (required) Mail (will not be published) (required) Website Enter this code: Submit Comment