

Hiya **Anonymous!**

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## STIFF LITTLE FINGERS • *In Concert - Handheld & Rigidly Digital* • (MVD)

Foo-Ling Yu rates it:

### STIFF LITTLE FINGERS *In Concert - Handheld & Rigidly Digital* (MVD)

This precious little gem was filmed over Christmas during the band's 1998 Hope Street Tour and despite some annoyances, it fulfills any SLF fan in so many ways. Jake Burns and the then-current gang of Bruce Foxtan, Ian McCallum, Steve Grantley, and Anthony Clarke on keyboards drink and hiccup their way through 15 tracks. A small gripe: some of the tracks are not "in concert", but rather soundchecks and rehearsals. I really don't understand this as I'm sure they played them all live.

The back of the DVD case shows a track 16, "Johnny Was" but I sure didn't see it. Maybe it's an Easter egg. If any of you have smarter friends than I do, you may be able to find it. I suspect it's a print mistake. Just like the listing of track 5 misspelled as "Bullett Proof" instead of the correct "Bulletproof."

"Wasted Life" is the third song in, and it's the best of the lot. Despite some bad editing, bad effects, and not enough crowd reaction, the whole disc SOUNDS amazing. If there was any rust on these guys, I couldn't spot it. "Barbed Wire Love" is a scorcher as well, and we finally get to see the crowd going bonkers. However I noticed some of the crowd reactions are not matched with the current song being played. That just shouldn't happen on a "live" DVD.

Footage of Belfast and the boys having a laugh are dropped in a few songs and are mostly not a distraction. Many of your favorites are here, including "Last Train From the Wasteland" which was Burns' Reggae-infused, optimistic song about Northern Ireland.

There's also a 20 minute interview with Burns in which he offers the spark of hearing The Damned and The Clash for the first time. This leads (as anyone with a guitar in 1977 will tell you) him to immediately form a band. How did SLF get its name? Yes, I'm sure you guessed it's from The Vibrators' song of the same name. But do you know why? I didn't... until now.

So here's what you'll do. Your eye will wander, but your ear will not. Do something else while this is spinning, and look up every now and then. You'll watch the entire Burns interview. And then, if you're lucky, you'll go see them as they tour America and Europe this summer. SLF has paid their dues. You, old punk, need to pay yours. Buy it.

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**hits:** 10

