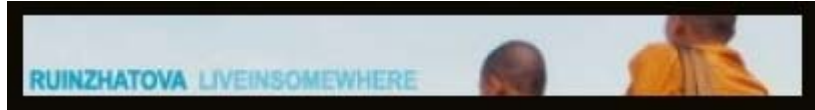


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AKTUALNY NUMER: - 52: LUTY



BAD BRAINS

Live at CBGB 1982 - CD/DVD

[MVD Audio / MVD Video, www.mvdb2b.com]



From amongst dozens of hardcore shows I'd seen in my youth, Bad Brains stood out. The Washington outfit were infamous for their spiritually driven rock, their ideological stance and their hard-driving hardcore aesthetic that pushed them over the top. When I saw them in the late 80's during the "Quickness" tour, they were still in their prime. Though their glory days may have been a few years prior, their live concert packed a punch. Adorned with three large, thick dreads, HR walloped his head in fury for over two hours, while the crowd jumped on stage at various points of the show and tried relentlessly to get at his microphone. Everyone in the theatre was sweating like a dog. Each song was full of drenching emotion, fury and conviction. This wasn't a band that people were indifferent to. You either loved Bad Brains or you hated them.

Almost two decades on, watching the "Live at CBGB 1982" DVD is a trip through the past. Like unlocking the ghosts in my closet, all the memories come creeping back. Sure, HR's dreads were much shorter

than when I recall seeing the band, but at the time, the guy was even more ferocious, more driven. The band is literally surrounded by worshippers. Tracks like "Big Takeover", "I" and "King of Glory" are scorchers. The fans jump on the stage, grab the microphone away from HR and share in the glory. Some people stand baffled, while others rush onto the stage and knock over various members of the band. This is madness. True insanity reigns supreme. Even during the dub numbers, the crowd worships at the feet of this mind-boggling outfit. These weren't shows any of these people were going to forget for a long, long time. Despite the forceful extremes Bad Brains music could fathom, everyone seemed to be at peace with each other during those fateful CBGBs shows. What surprises me most during the hour long concert is just how good the audio and video quality is. Someone did quite a job in mastering the raw tapes. The only drawback is the bonus features. One is an audio version of "I and I Survive" from the album, while the other one features fan interviews. Sure, it's fun to watch people talk about the violence that takes place surrounding concerts such as this one and the energy released during a Bad Brains performance. But the question begs to be asked - was there no valid interview with the actual band that could've been included here? This turns out to be one highly inspirational DVD that will convey the energy of Bad Brains at their prime for generations to come.

Similar to the DVD, the audio disc is a formidable statement. Used as an accompaniment to the DVD or as a stand-alone, the hour-long disc sees the Mighty Trio at their furious best. While the standard powerhouse numbers - "I", "Big Takeover", "Riot Squad" - still retain the same vitality of the past day, it's the slower, dub renditions that are the marked highlights. When the crowd stops surfing, when the lights dim by a notch, you have to give yourself a bit of a break. That's when the power-dub of "Unity Dub", the mellowed-out "I and I Rasta" and the trippy "All Rise to Meet Jah" come in handy. HR rarely sounds as good as he does on the dub numbers. That's when the nuances in his mighty vocals are felt most clearly. Darryl Jenifer's all powerful bass is most pleasing then too. Along with guitarist Gary Miller [who drives the fast numbers forward] and Earl Hudson on percussion, this quartet could not be stopped. Whether it's those long-gone nights at CBGB or for years afterwards, Bad Brains was a pummelling train going down the tracks at full speed with faulty brakes.

- Tom Sekowski

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 + Singing is communication - wywiad z Marit Posch alias Damero
 + Something unique - wywiad z Mikael'em Stavostrandem (Bulgur Brothers)