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BAD BRAINS, "Live At CBGB 1982"

Some people say hardcore died years ago, other older folks say hardcore today just doesn't compare to what it was way back when. In fact, most every generation of hardcore kids will say that to the younger generation (which is all of about 3 years difference). But when people talk about the Bad Brains blowing away most every hardcore band of the last 15-20 years there really is no argument. I wasn't around this long ago (though I did see the highly medicated version about 5 years ago). This is the chance for all the younger (and maybe not so younger) kids to see this phenomenal band at the height of their intensity rock CBGB's for three nights straight. The highlights of each set are exposed for viewers to froth over, wishing they could have been there. I know watching this myself I could feel my fists clench and a welling up of emotion in my gut. I almost leaped off the couch and stagedived into the floor... which would have been ridiculous, so I didn't. BUt watching them open every night with "The Big Takeover" and just watching New York punkers flipping the fuck out before it even begins and HR literally exploding into the crowd, swinging the mic stand around like it was some sort of mangled dance partner, convulsing, shaking, jumping up and down and leaning into the crowd for obligatory sing-alongs... this is the stuff hardcore is made of. Guitarist Dr. Know plays every note to a 'T' and has a smile the entire time, even when he's getting knocked about by numerous kids freaking out. Yet the camera is mostly on HR and the Doc, with a bit of a behind-the-drum cam looking out into the crowd. You almost never see bassist Darryl Jennifer, though you hear him loud and clear. This is a great sound recording as well, capturing the raw, live intensity of Bad Brains. And when they break into "Banned In DC" , close your eyes, and you can almost hear the pile-up's. Though it gets a bit repetitive (3 nights of almost the same set) it never tires and goes by pretty fast. Strange little fun facts: during the last set you can see a younger Raybeez moshing it up. Also, in the last set, they do a Sex Pistols cover, which sounds a little strange coming from the Bad Brains. Either way, it's a winner and an important document for the younger generation that wonders, 'well, why was hardcore better back then?' Here's your proof. (MVD, www.musicvideodistributors.com)

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