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[Feedback](#)
[Forums](#)
[Interviews](#)
[Live Photos](#)
[Merchandise](#)
[News Archive](#)
[Release Dates](#)
[Reviews](#)
[Search HCS](#)

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Voliminal: Inside The Nine

| [A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#) | [AAO](#)



DATA

RELEASE DATE: 2006-09-19
LABEL: Roir Records

TRACKLIST:

01. Big Take Over
02. Attitude
03. I
04. Supertouch/ sh**fit
05. King of Glory
06. Right Brigade
07. F.V.K.
08. Banned in DC
09. How Low Can a Punk Get
10. The Meek
11. Riot Squad

Live at CBGB 1982

Bad Brains

THE REVIEW:

Where would most of today's punk bands, firebrands like Rage Against the Machine, even No Doubt be without the trails blazed by Bad Brains?

The Washington, D.C.-based group was revolutionary in the early 1980s, one whose convictions were wholly evident in their music. It was so radical for its time partially because it combined so many classifications. Were they punk? Hardcore? Reggae? Try all of the above.

If Bad Brains inspired an entire generation of angry, alienated musicians but remain largely unknown today, it's because their music was poorly distributed. Those searching for that gap in their punk ancestry can now get Bad Brains' "Live at CBGB 1982," released by MVD Audio. It assembles the best of the band's discography into one handy disc.

Recorded on Thanksgiving and Christmas in 1982 at the legendary CBGB in New York, the CD has a muddy sound entirely befitting the occasion. Gary "Dr. Know" Miller's guitar sounds splintered. Darryl Jenifer's bass sounds coagulated and a few octaves lower than the bowels of hell. An echo permeates H.R.'s tongue-lashing vocals.

The 19-song set, culled from four hours of recordings, highlights everything Bad Brains was best at.

Tracks like "Jah the Conqueror" and "Rally Round Jah's Throne" show them to be the dub pioneers they were. "Unity Dub" and "All Rise to Meet Jah" both ride Earl Hudson's throbbing beat, serving as ballast for the iconoclastic testimony each contains.

Others, particularly "Right Brigade" and "Destroy Babylon," are so ferocious you'd be hard-pressed to find anything matching it today. There's plenty of precursors to speed metal too, "Banned in DC," "How Low Can a Punk Get" and "The Regulator" topping that list. With "Supertouch/Shitfit," a lethal dose of stomp and speed, it's easy to understand how Bad Brains inspired and informed the entire hardcore movement that was to come.

It's bitter irony that the band's fusion of anarchistic music and reggae would ultimately lead to a factious split within its ranks. Though Bad Brains was only around for a handful of years with little output, they set standards that are still



Frail
Pieces of Silence



Bad Brains
Live at CBGB 1982



Diesense
Mania



Kill The Romance
Cyanide



This Ending
Inside The Machine



Disco Ensemble
First Aid Kit (Reissue)

- 12. We Will Not
- 13. Coptic Times
- 14. At the Movies
- 15. Rally Round Jah Throne
- 16. Redbone in the City
- 17. Pay to Cum

in play today. The truly remarkable part is this music was recorded in 1982, long before sounds like these became accepted.



BY: **Wade Coggeshall** (WadeTheBlade) on 2006-11-27

RANK:



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