



Bad Brains

Live At CBGB 1982
(MVD)

Those who were lucky enough to have witnessed Bad Brains live during their peak have always attested that the group was one of the most thrilling acts to ever take to the stage. This DVD, culled from a three night stint at CBGB's in 1982, absolutely confirms that belief. The group, right between their self titled debut album and 1983's Rock For Light, are at the height of their musical powers, with HR's energetic stage antics truly in a class of his own - even Iggy Pop would have a hard time keeping up with him! The sound and picture quality on the DVD are far from perfect (at one point a fuse was blown causing the lights to go out...but the band kept playing), but that doesn't distract from the infectious energy in the performance. The crowd of punks certainly seems to be loving it all - moshing along to the lightning-fast hardcore punk songs and skanking along to the reggae songs that Bad Brains so smartly sprinkled into their sets. Nineteen songs are included here (some more than once) including favorites "Supertouch/Shitfit", "Banned In DC", and set opener "Big Take Over" (featuring a stellar guitar work from Dr. Know, a supremely under-rated player). It sounds cliché to say, but they really just don't make groups like this anymore. Yet another crucial video document of rock and roll history from Music Video Distributors.

- David Mansdorf