

## Suburban Voice On-Line

### **BAD BRAINS-Live At CBGB 1982 (MVD, DVD)**

One of my favorite stories to tell the young'uns is about how I saw the Bad Brains in the spring of '82 at a tiny club called Maverick's. Don't go looking for it, it's not there (thank you Marty DiBergi—look it up, if you don't know what I'm talking about). They show up close to last call, set up, plug in and play one of the greatest sets I've ever seen in my life. 15-20 minutes of all hardcore. No rose-colored glasses. Seeing the performances on the DVD, recorded at three shows around Christmas of '82, proves my point. Even with the occasional bad camera angles, lights going out, sound issues, the chaos is captured. In fact, it's apropos for that to happen because that's an accurate reflection of a Bad Brains show, at that point, anyway. I'm still not a fan of their reggae songs but that's what the skip button on the remote is for—OK, I DID watch a bit of the reggae but, sorry, it remains boring. The Brains were in peak form. Incredible musicianship—Earl flailing away with precision even at the high velocity, thundering bass-lines from the invisible Darryl Jennifer (I don't think he's in the shot at anytime) and Dr. Know knocking out sick power-chords and lead runs, looking as if he's having the time of his life playing those riffs. HR, of course, moves around like a maniac, sings out the words at a rapid-fire clip and works himself into a frenzy. I'm using hyperbole here—maybe overdoing it but, damn, it's killer and one of the coolest things is to see the faces of the people in the audience, dancing, diving, singing along—then there's one kid playing air drums on the side of the stage. Not too many extras—just a brief interview segment with a few fans. In any case, this is an essential release. A document, not a documentary and just seeing the source material, without commentary, is a better experience. (PO Box 280, Oaks, PA 19456, <http://www.musicvideodistributors.com/>)

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