



Bad Brains

Live At CBGB's 1982
(Wienerworld)

A hardcore Rastafarian reggae rock act is not something you will often see written down let alone actually encounter but Bad Brains were just such a beast, welding industrial strength clattering hardcore onto intermittent bouts of deep dark dub, something which isn't as incongruous as you may initially imagine. Filmed documentation of the classic line up of the band (singer H.R., guitarist Dr. Know, bass guitarist Darryl Jennifer, and drummer Earl Hudson) is pretty thin on the ground so this is a very welcome discovery, and if the more subtle shades and complexities of their recorded output are somewhat trampled (although not entirely absent) in the slam dancing, stage-diving melee, this CBGB show is nonetheless a great find. The two camera, audience level shoot is necessarily scrappy and the sound pretty average - although let's be honest hardcore recorded in a small club is never going to be audiophile heaven is it? That said our review copy was only a scratch audio demo so the final release may well boast better sound, and as a historical document of an important, pioneering, hugely underrated, and much missed hardcore outfit it serves its purpose admirably