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Bad Brains&-Live at CBGB 1982

By Joe Warminsky

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D.C. probably has more semipro punk historians per capita than any place that produced a “this is my city, not your city” compilation back in the day. For a transplant like myself, all the quasi-scholarly, photograph-heavy nostalgia seems snooty at times. Yeah, I get it, this was one of the great epicenters of the Church of Hardcore. Neophytes who really want to understand what the fuss was about shouldn’t open a picture book, though. They should check out YouTube—especially the clip there from Bad Brains—Live at CBGB 1982, which shows the seminal band at the peak of its powers, performing at the New York club’s Hardcore Festival. That footage, my friends, is what it means to be “punk as fuck.” The feature-length film the clip came from will be released on DVD later this month, but you can preview it when it screens at 9 p.m. at the Black Cat’s backstage, 1811 14th St. NW. \$3. (202) 667-7960. (Joe Warminsky)