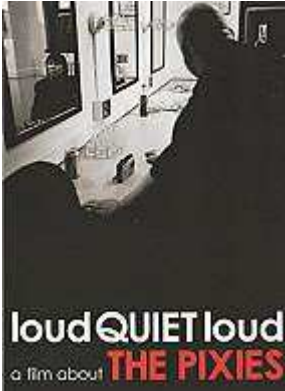


TV PARTY - P



PIXIES - Loud QUIET Loud {MVD (<http://www.mvdvisual.com/>)} While THE PIXIES was never a band that aligned itself with Punk Rock as such, it is without doubt that the band's sound had a direct lineage to the likes of BIG BLACK, BUTTHOLE SURFERS and MINUTEMEN. Both 'Doolittle' and 'Surfer Rosa' displayed more angular, abrasive and non-conformist anger than many of the bona-fide 'Punk' bands on the same era.

This DVD documents the band's 2004 reformation tour. Considering the acrimony of the band's original split, there appears little initial animosity between Black Francis, Kim Deal, Joey Santiago and Dave Lovering. That said, there appears little in the way of communication either - something the documentary makes a point of - and something that becomes ever more apparent as the film progresses.

The film goes right back to the initial, pre-tour rehearsals in LA and the first reformation show at a tiny venue in Minneapolis which is notable for the gargantuan blisters on Kim's fingers post-show. From there, you get highlights of the whole tour - both on stage and off. A version of 'Caribou' from the warm-up Canada tour is stunning as is 'Gouge Away' from London's Brixton Academy (interesting aside: it was the fastest sell-out show ever in the Academy's history). It's around here a more omnipresent silence creeps in as drummer Dave starts to head into his own world somewhat. That's compounded when the band hits Iceland and Dave learns of his Father's passing and deals with it via a variety of drugs and alcohol. By the time the North American leg of the tour hits, Kim is writing the next BREEDERS record and, in Chicago, Dave messes up big time and feels the wrath of Black Francis - the first and only time his famed anger manifests itself.

Countering the stunning music is the equally as intriguing personalities of each band member. Black Francis often ostracises himself from the band taking time out alone in the tour bus while the chats between Kim and her sister Kelly (who also came on the tour) are probably the most insightful as they are relaxed and often amusing. When Francis announces to the band the news he is to be a father, there is a glimpse of an all too rare sense of genuine camaraderie; for a moment the band are friends reveling in the shared good news of one they have known, intimately, for in excess of 15 years. It's a joyous scene - albeit a little strained initially - and one that suggests all the disenchanting inter-band relationships could be overcome. As any fan would expect, it's filmed artistically, with good editing and tasteful splicing of material from various shows.

Of the extras there are some unessential outtakes plus a Director's Commentary and, thankfully, a glossy 16 page booklet which really fills out the whole package.

Any fan of THE PIXIES will devour this with the gusto of Francis chomping limbs off Lovering in Chicago had he got the chance. Newcomers may be best off checking out 'Doolittle' or 'Come On Pilgrim'. If either of those has the same visceral effect as they had on me, then you better start thinking about asking for this next time it's your birthday.

Rules = No Rules