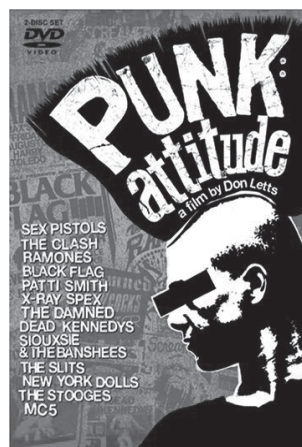


Rockers: 25th Anniversary Edition

(Music Video Distributors, \$19.99)

Along with Jimmy Cliff's 1972 star-making vehicle, *The Harder They Come*, this 1978 film (though not released in the U.S. until two years later, hence the 25th Anniversary tag) is one of the most widely revered films concerning reggae music and Jamaican culture to ever come off the island... and with good reason. *Rockers* boasts the acting "talents" of some of the most influential voices/personalities in reggae music (including Gregory Isaacs, Jacob Miller, Big Youth, Robbie Shakespeare and many others). However, the acting and storyline really aren't this film's key selling points but rather provide a provocative and engaging backdrop for an amazing soundtrack and some riveting live performances. As far as the plot line goes, the film has often been described as the "reggae Robin Hood," which is a pretty good summation of this loosely scripted film. In a nutshell,

Rockers follows lead character Horsemouth, played by real-life reggae drummer Leroy Wallace, as he struggles to survive and support his wife and children on the meagre earnings of a full-time musician. To earn more money, the drummer buys a motorcycle to peddle records to local music shops and distributors around the island. Yet before he can earn a penny, Horsemouth's bike is stolen by local toughs. After tracking down the thieves and stealing his bike back, the musician is savagely beaten by the robbers and loses his wheels yet again. Horsemouth spends the rest of the film planning the method to exact his revenge (while smoking plenty of herb, helping over-run the sound booth at a local disco and trying to woo the virginal daughter of the gangster responsible for his woes). With the help of some "heavy" friends, Horsemouth eventually emerges triumphant, and the scene of the rude boys converging to their meeting point to the tune of Peter Tosh's "Stepping Razor" is the highpoint of the film. This anniversary DVD edition features an extensive interview (and separate commentary) with director Theodoros Bafaloukos, informational biographies on the musicians featured in the film, a rasta patois glossary and much more. The DVD also boasts a remastered print of the original 35mm, remastered audio, improved subtitles and a 16-page color booklet. If you've seen *The Harder They Come*, *Rockers* is highly recommended as the next step on your reggae journey.



Punk: Attitude

(Capital Entertainment, \$39.99)

Musician, DJ and filmmaker Don Letts was a crucial facilitator in the link between reggae music and punk rock, so perhaps it's fitting that a review of his new film, *Punk: Attitude* should follow a review of *Rockers*. Originally aired on the Independent Film Channel and screened at festivals, this film is one of the most authoritative, visually compelling and inspirational documents on the origins and ongoing cultural significance of the punk movement. Letts broadens the scope of his sensational documentary on The Clash, *Westway to the World*, to more fully study the now overly familiar story of the music and fashion-based rebellion that first occurred in New York and London in the mid-to-late 1970s. While Letts' interviews with the likes of Chrissie Hynde, David Johansen and the reclusive Polly Styrene of X-Ray Spex fame are telling and help set the frame-

work for punk's genesis, his interviews with such seemingly incongruous personalities as filmmaker Jim Jarmusch further the notion that punk wasn't just an influence on would-be musicians and disaffected youth. Using hair-raising (at least for rock nerds) performance clips, interviews with some of the key players and his own Super 8 film footage shot at the time, Letts has come closest to explaining the true origins and implications of this frequently misunderstood and often maligned genre. To his credit, Letts doesn't just stick to the "big three" of the punk movement (Stooges, Ramones, Sex Pistols) but also carefully examines splinter movements and fringe acts that will never be touched by an imagined "VH-1 Presents One Hundred Million Super Cool Punk People." That being said, Letts seems to fall for the all-too-familiar notion that punk disappeared somewhere in the 1980s and was only magically brought back to life with the release of Nirvana's *Nevermind* in 1991. To be fair, the documentary's 90-minute running length doesn't really lend itself to a full examination of the musical form's full evolution (including post-punk, indie-rock, etc.) and the DVD release does include a bonus disc which covers some of those occurrences along with a treasure trove of interviews and footage not included in the original film. While the definitions and essence of punk's meaning and true spirit will always be open to debate, Letts has furthered the understanding of why the movement had to happen in the first place and, perhaps, why it will remain in the future. This DVD is worth the price of admission if only for the rarely seen home movies of some punk heroes on both sides of the pond casually hanging out together at parties (slow-speed viewing option recommended here) not to mention live footage of James Chance and the Contortions, Suicide, The Slits...oh, but I digress.

—mark norris

Group Name:

Wolf Tickets

When/Where playing this week?

Sat. Rocktober 1, 9pm at the Mohawk Place, CD release party with Liberal SX, Midtown Rebels, & This Wicked

Band Members /

Instruments played...

Russell Bickert, drums, vocals

Mike Snyder, bass, vocals

Chris Malachowski, guitar, vocals

Mike Doktor, lead guitars.



When did the band form?

The band was formed in 1993 and has had many members throughout the years but I (Chris) have remained the constant singer/songwriter.

You might like our music if you like....

Social Distortion, The Clash and a hint of Jawbreaker.

List of Recorded Releases

The Bag of Bones EP is the first official cd release.

Best/worst show the band ever played?

Russell's backyard extravaganza, opening for a disco cover band.

Anything else you would like our readers to know about the band?

We generally keep it real.

Contact information:

Chris Malachowski, cmal@huntcommercial.com