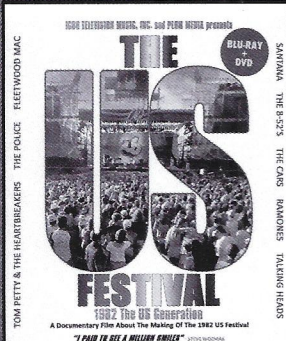


**"US FESTIVAL:
1982 THE US GENERATION"
(MVD)**



The US Festival was a 3-day event held over the Labor Day weekend of 1982 in a Californian desert. Viewed as a more thought-out Woodstock and an optimistic return to the idealism of the 1960's, it showcased some of the biggest musical acts of the day, which being 1982 meant crud like Fleetwood Mack and Eddie Money playing alongside the Ramones, Gang Of Four, The Beat and the B-52's amongst others. Quite the mixed bag as you can see. The event was the concept of Steve Wozniak from Apple Computers. Filthy rich and with a desire to pull

technology and music together, it was the ultimate confluence of art and commerce. This raises an eyebrow with the Punk in me, but Wozniak assures us his intentions were honourable. Okay then! He got the ball rolling by waving a \$2 million cheque in the faces of Bill Graham and others to convince them he was legit and once aboard plans for the extravaganza took off. This documentary looks at the logistics behind the festival and splices in live performances, in addition to both new and archived interviews with the performers and organizers. For most of the artists, this was the largest crowd they had ever played to and

attendance was estimated to be in the region of 130,000. It was also their biggest pay day, with some bands rumoured to have pocketed \$1 million for their efforts. The documentary is heavy on perceived ideals and keeps the focus on bringing people together, as Wozniak stresses he had no way of predicting if his venture would turn a profit or fall flat financially. Honourable objectives perhaps, but does anyone really trust corporations and their motives? I can say I'm certainly not convinced. Turns out the festival was alleged to have lost circa \$10 million, though the documentary avoids getting into specific figures. What set the event apart, aside from its sheer scale, was its top-of-the-range audio visuals and provision of somewhat more humane facilities for festival goers than they had become accustomed to up to that point. Stewart Copeland refers to it as "the Coachella of its day". Uck! My takeaway is that it may not be for readers of this fanzine, save for the live performances by the Ramones, B-52's and some all-too-brief snippets of Gang Of Four and The Beat, who appeared way down the bill. It's a missed opportunity not to have included these sets in their entirety as extras on the DVD as it would have offset the deluge of AOR and corporate executives that eat up large parts of the movie itself. **(MVD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP: 203 WINDSOR ROAD, POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, PA 19464, U.S.A.)**

THE CONTROL FREAKS



**THE 2ND LP FROM
SAN FRANCISCO
BUDGET-ROCK
ROYALTY!**

(IF YOU THINK THAT SUPERCHARGER,
THE RIP-OFFS, THE INFECTIONS
AND THE ZODIAK KILLERS WERE
EVER WORTH A FUCKIN SHIT)

SHE'S THE BOMB

OUT NOW FROM

