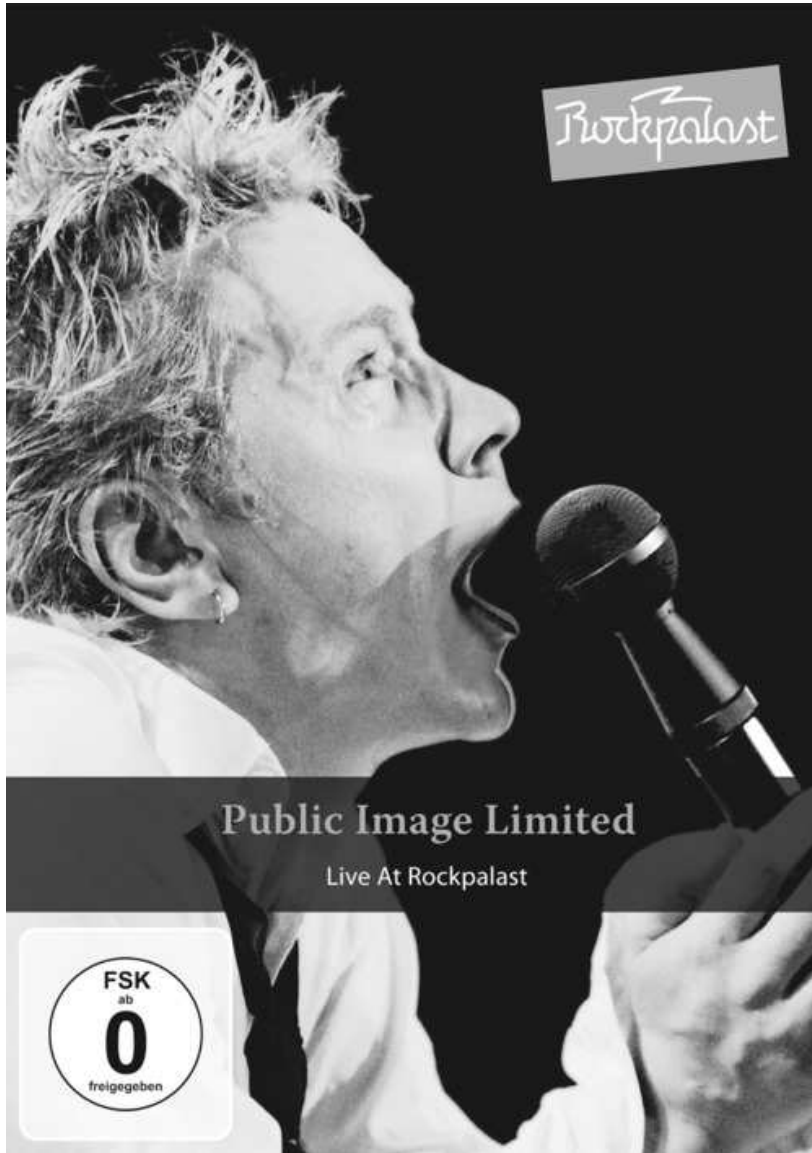


# The Impaler Speaks

## Public Image Limited – Live At Rockpalast 1983

[@pilofficial](#) [@mvdentgroup](#) This DVD is not to be missed. Review written for [Mass Movement](#) 33, a work in progress. [Public Image Ltd](#) at their dangerous best.



### Public Image Limited – Live At Rockpalast 1983 ([Rockpalast/WDR/WIG/MVD Visual](#))

Rockpalast, a television program that has been a staple of Germany's WDR since 1974, has teamed up with MVD Visual to release a slew of vintage episodes from the early 80's featuring the biggest names in rock 'n' roll at the time. Here we have Public Image Limited (PiL) at the Zeche in Bochum, Germany, recorded on Halloween 1983 with a lineup featuring founding member John Lydon (vocals) accompanied by the already in-demand Martin Atkins (drums), Joseph Guida (guitar), Louis Bernardi (bass), and Arthur Stead (keyboards). The show begins with an earnest, if bored, looking Lydon meandering about the stage, methodically providing vocals to the song 'Public Image', while the band work up a hypnotizing rhythm behind him. 3 minutes, 22 seconds later, all hell breaks loose on 'Annalisa', with Lydon climbing off the stage to prowl around the perimeter of the audience, almost being pulled into the crowd by rabid fans more than once. The song itself is magical, and sets itself apart as an early highlight in a show filled with them. For the next 20 minutes or so, everything is a manic blur. 'Religion' crashes into 'Memories' which segues into 'Flowers Of Romance' which devolves into 'Solitaire' which culminates with Lydon telling the crowd that he's bored and wants to go home, prompting Atkins to unleash Armageddon on his drums for a blistering take on 'Chant'... and then the bomb drops when the familiar strains of 'Anarchy In



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more....

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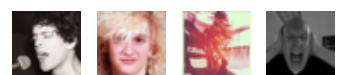
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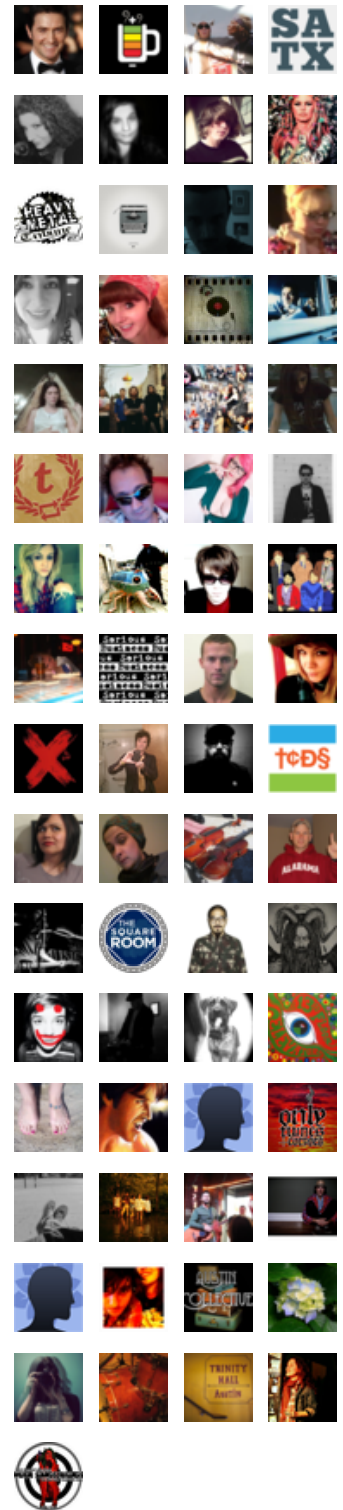
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The UK fill the air. Thankfully, the camera crews were prepared and managed to capture some stellar shots of the frenetic crowd letting out all of their collective frustration while Lydon smirks and snarls his way through what is probably my favorite-ever performance of that song. At its conclusion, the lights go out and the band disappear from the stage for several minutes. When they rematerialize, it is with the then-unknown '(This Is Not A) Love Song', which was undeniably destined to be a classic even in its infancy. Oddly – or perhaps that's not the right descriptor, maybe 'artistically'? – the band leaves the stage after every other song, returning for encore after encore after encore: 'Low Life', 'Under The House' (with both Guida and Bernardi abandoning their stringed instruments to create a raucous tribal drum circle with Atkins), 'Bad Life', and finally, another run through 'Public Image', though this time Lydon appears possessed and is clearly enjoying himself fully despite his repeated claims of being bored and wanting to go home. This episode of Rockpalast was produced over 30 years ago, but is nothing short of essential viewing today. PiL put on a performance for the ages, the camera-work is beyond commendable, the film quality is surprisingly good, and the DVD includes a humorous interview with Lydon and clips of the band soundchecking on two songs before the actual show. This is one not to be missed. **The Impaler** [@impalerspeaks](#)

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