

## GRAHAM PARKER & THE RUMOUR

*Live at Rockpalast 1978 + 1980*

(MiG)



It's hard to fathom why these performances stayed stashed away in a vault for over three decades, but their reap-

pearance in 2012—as Parker reforms his Rumour backing unit—is most welcome.

The double CD/DVD sets (available separately) capture this legendary outfit in two concerts in Germany in the titular years. Both find the band in typical crackling rocking soul form, with the nod going to the 1978 show, which augments the basic lineup with a four-piece horn section. The 1980 gig came on the tour for the disappointing *The Up Escalator*, shortly after which the group dissolved.

Anyone familiar with previous Rockpalast DVDs knows that this is basically VHS quality with somewhat raw videography. And even though there is no lack of Parker/Rumour live product already available, there is not much officially sanctioned video from this era. That makes this an important musical document from a journeyman performer pouring it all out with a great backing band captured in its prime.

HAL HOROWITZ