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Bad Brains

Live at CBGBs 1982
MVD Audio



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Punk, hardcore, reggae, and dub lovingly rolled into one bashing, thrashing, thoroughly special spliff. Warning: may cause hearing loss; an parents, roommates, or spouses; and the unquenchable desire to be 18 and present at CBGB when Bad Brains performed the two sets in l on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, no less – that are featured on this CD.

The never-to-be-matched all-black D.C. punk group tore the house down those two evenings, and liner notes from Big Takeover editor and Jack Rabid suggest Bad Brains pretty much tore the house down every time they played. The group's mix of old-school UK punk and the h punk that was then developing in New York was ferocious enough. But introduce both the sensibilities and sound of roots reggae and you f something truly different. Bad Brains didn't often blend reggae and punk within one song so much as switch between modes, and live, the f swapping of aggressive, fast punk for mellow, rhythmic reggae (with Rastafarian lyrics) created something truly profound and powerful. Thi captures Bad Brains' greatest strength in perfect form and is recommended for anyone interested in the band.

- Nate Seltenrich

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