



[Release List](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Shop](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Forum](#)

[DVD Giveaways](#)

[Blu-Ray/DVD](#)

Reviews & Columns

Reviews

- [DVD](#)
- [TV on DVD](#)
- [HD DVD / Blu-ray](#)
- [International DVDs](#)
- [Theatrical](#)
- [Adult](#)
- [Video Games](#)

Features

- [Collector Series DVDs](#)
- [Easter Egg Database](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [DVD Talk Radio](#)
- [Feature Articles](#)

Columns

- [Anime Talk](#)
- [XCritic.com](#)
- [DVD Stalk](#)
- [DVD Savant](#)
- [High-Def Revolution](#)
- [Silent DVD](#)

DVD Talk Forum

Select Forum Area... ▾

Resources

- [DVD Price Search](#)
- [Customer Service #'s](#)
- [RCE Info](#)
- [Links](#)

DVDTalk Info

- [Review Staff](#)
- [About DVD Talk](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Newsletter Subscribe](#)
- [Join DVD Talk Forum](#)
- [DVD Talk Feeds](#)



Search:  For:

[Reviews](#) » [DVD Video Reviews](#) » Dexter Romweber - Two-Headed Cow

## Dexter Romweber - Two-Headed Cow

[Other](#) // Unrated // November 22, 2011

**List Price: \$16.95 [Buy now and save at [Amazon](#)]**

to see what your friends like.

Review by [Rich Rosell](#) | posted January 28, 2012 | [E-mail the Author](#)

Rock and roll is indeed a cruel mistress, and I'll bet that you can come up with six or seven bands off the top of your head that you feel should be more well known than they are (ex: Scotland Yard Gospel Choir). On the flipside I'll bet you can do the same with bands that are successful for reasons that seem to make little or no sense to you (ex: Nickelback). It's the nature of the beast, fickle and illogical, often driven by factors that have little to do with actual talent and more to do with marketability and branding. The one truth is that there are far more performers who wallow in relative obscurity than make it big, and though the side of the musical highway is littered with these stranded travelers they usually tend to make music that is significantly more honest and heartfelt.

**Two-Headed Cow** is an 80-minute 2008 documentary from Tony Gayton that follows the rise and fall of Flat Duo Jets, a two man guitar-and-drums rockabilly/roots band featuring Dex Romweber (guitar/vocals) and Chris Smith (drums/vocals). The band may never have achieved a national level of fame, but their influence amongst other musicians was widespread, as witnessed by the onscreen adulation offered by the likes of Jack White, Neko Case, Exene Cervenka and Chan "Cat Power" Marshall. Romweber, with his love Gene Vincent and The Coasters, plied his frantic and mournful twang like a man possessed, and when the duo disintegrated (as so many bands seem to do) it created an evolutionary impasse. The remainder of **Two-Headed Cow** follows Romweber through



CONTENT ★★★★★

VIDEO ★★★★★

AUDIO ★★★★★

EXTRAS ★★★★★

REPLAY ★★★★★

ADVICE

**Recommended**

E - MAIL [this review to a friend](#)

PRINT [Printer Friendly](#)

Popul:


1. [Th](#)
2. [Ta](#)
3. [Ti](#)
4. [Cc](#)
5. [Me](#)
6. [Ba](#)
7. [Cc](#)
8. [Ca](#)
9. [Sc](#)
10. [Fif](#)

Specia



[Get DVD Talk Feeds](#)

Special Offer



**NONSTOP  
TO  
SFO & LAX  
ON SALE  
NOW.**

FROM ONLY  
**\$194**

RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

PHILADELPHIA  
→ SAN FRANCISCO

[GRAB A SEAT TO SFO](#)

the years, the lows followed by more lows, slogging it out in tiny venues and dirty motel rooms, all the while churning out very personal and very intense American roots music.

There's a disclaimer at the end of the doc mentioning how Chris Smith (who only appears in Flat Duo Jets home movies) disputes Romweber's recounting of the band's demise. That's not really much of a surprise - by nature it is the very definition of "artistic differences" - but this is essentially Romweber's story. It's about what drives him to make music, the authors that inspired him and the notion to combat the current state of rock music, which according to him has "no purity". Gayton's narrative isn't a high-gloss treatise, and even after decades of performing Romweber is well under the radar of fame, regardless of the performers he has influenced over the years. **Two-Headed Cow** reminds us that having fame slip through your fingers, something that Romweber bleakly intones during his recollection of the final days of Flat Duo Jets, is often an unescapable reality.

The saga of Romweber's life and musical career is certainly a bittersweet one - a few rungs away from real fame - and **Two-Headed Cow** is bluntly unrepentant in conveying that. While he is currently recording for the always eclectic Bloodshot Records, with his sister Sara (Let's Active, Mitch Easter) on drums, Romweber has not acquiesced or mutated in some feeble attempt to become more commercial. His music today remains as it was, built on a foundation of simplicity and energy. I think knowing that going into **Two-Headed Cow**, knowing that 4+ years after the decades documented in this film he is still doing what he has to be doing, still creating, is an essential footnote about rock and roll. To me, it speaks volumes.

### Video

The 1.33:1 fullframe transfer is an odd lot, compiled from a number of video sources. What this means is that image quality waffles a bit, with some of the more recent Romweber interview segments looking good (not great, mind you) augmented by an assortment of other source material that include grainy black-and-white footage to the occasional murky, muddy concert performance. Rough around the edges, but thematically appropriate, if you ask me.

### Audio

Audio is provided in a barebones 2.0 stereo offering. And as the whole doc was cobbled together from mid-1980s home movies, locations like motel rooms or moving vehicles, so the range of quality varies from scene to scene. Fidelity - most notably during the performances - isn't especially that strong, but it fits Romweber's minimalist roots vibe. Interview segments (including the older footage) have clear voice quality with no measurable detritus.

### Extras

Extras consist of a trio of assorted Romweber appearances, consisting of a jazz-infused *Dexter on BET* (04m:44s), pieced together clips from a performance of *Dexter at Silverlake Lounge*

<< REPLAY

SELE

E  
SQU

G  
SQU

C

C

C

DVD B

1. S  
O  
(  
[  
B

2. S  
P  
(  
-  
B

3. S  
(  
[  
B

4. A  
L  
B  
W

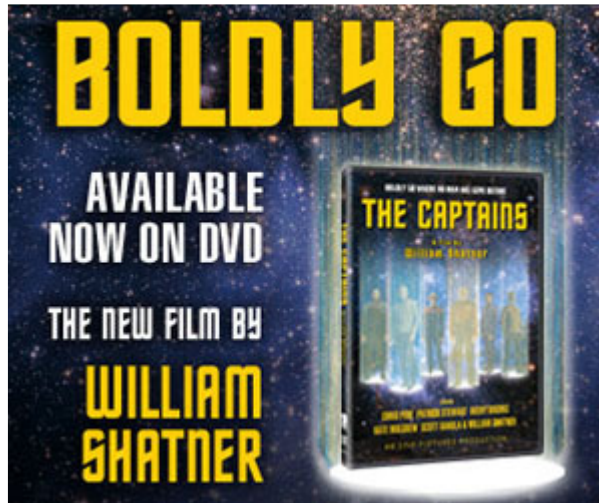
(02m:53s) and a full episode of a 1998 cable access show from Chapel Hill, NC called Z-TV, appropriately entitled *Dexter on Z-TV* (30m:35s).

**Final Thoughts**

When it comes to minimalist American roots music there are very few who do it with the same sort of manic intensity and raw emotion as Dex Romweber. **Two-Headed Cow** chronicles his life, his music (including the Flat Duo Jets) and Dex himself reminds us all - indirectly - that sometimes you don't make music, but instead the music makes you. This is a joyfully bleak doc, not always a feel good, but a film that makes me appreciate any performer/band that grinds it out for decades - with so much genuine honesty - simply because it is what they have to do.

Recommended.

- 5. [T](#) [B](#)
- 6. [L](#) [B](#)
- 7. [A](#) [B](#)
- 8. [S](#) [S](#)
- 9. [F](#) [M](#)
- 10. [M](#) [B](#)

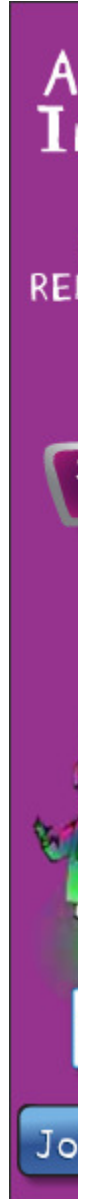


[Dexter Romweber](#)  
 Dexter Romweber, D...  
 Best Price \$9.28  
 or Buy New \$15.49



[Privacy Information](#)

Special



[Release List](#)   [Reviews](#)   [Shop](#)   [Newsletter](#)   [Forum](#)   [DVD Giveaways](#)   [Blu-Ray/DVD](#)

Copyright 2012 DVDTalk.com All Rights Reserved. [Legal Info](#), [Privacy Policy](#), [Terms of Use](#)

