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FFanzeen: Rock'n'Roll Attitude With Integrity

Through the writings and photography of Robert Barry Francos, a view of the arts and culture, including everyday life.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

DVD Review: New York Dolls: Lookin' Fine on Television

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New York Dolls: Lookin' Fine on Television

Directed by Nadya and Bob Gruen

MVD Visual, 2011

70 minutes, USD \$14.95

MVDvisual.com

The opening shot of this documentary / concert mash-up is of the whole band (early drummer Jerry Nolan era) sitting on a hill in a park (Central? Flushing Meadow?), and lead guitarist Johnny Thunders - long hair aflowin' with that wisp on top - starts talking about how the band got together by his first meeting bassist Arthur "Killer" Kane, to which vocalist David Johansen gives a snide "That's not how we started..." As Thunders flicks a ciggy-butt at him, rhythm guitarist Sylvain Sylvain starts in with his own interpretation to the story. Through their thick outer borough accents (Queens, Staten Island, etc.), this complete practice in ridiculousness is the perfect way to start this documentary about arguably (pun intended) one of the most important bands to come out of the New York area in the first half of the '70s.

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