

GappleGate Guitar and Bass Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards Blogs on Guitarists, Bassists, Musicians & Music

Classical-Modern Music Review
 Grego's GappleGate Site: On My Own Music (under construction)
 GappleGate Music Review (Jazz)
 Grego's Yakety-Yak



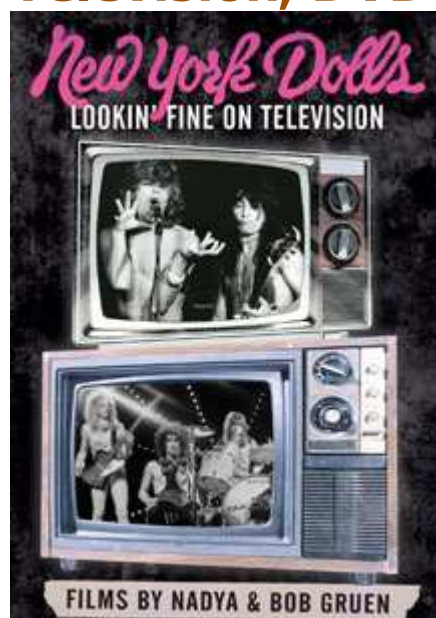
About This Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The GappleGate Guitar and Bass Blog covers music releases of interest to guitarists, bassists, vocalists, musicians and other

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

New York Dolls: Lookin' Fine On Television, DVD



The New York Dolls in the early '70s took the raw power of the Velvets and the Stooges, then combined it with Jagger's ambivalent performance sexuality to create a "glam", cross-dressed stage show that had its visual as well as aural importance to the ensuing scene. In the course of their rising Nadja and Bob Gruen filmed interviews and live appearances in the clubs and on television.

The documentation can be had on the new 70-minute DVD *Lookin' Fine on Television* (MVD Visual 5272D). It captures the aura of the band in glorious black and white. The film makes quite clear the counterculture niche the band embodied. They were an eruption of a rather overtly flamboyant version of gay culture into the rock nightlife world, Liberace's of proto-punk if you like.

The club footage and tv spot cover much of the band's repertoire in raw sound. This is loud anarchic stuff and it recaptures the eccentric excitement the band generated. The sound is somewhat low-fi but in full keeping with the live ambiance of the band in full flight. One quibble--the filmmakers continually synch multiple clips of the band performing on different occasions with the initial sound track, so that the band morphs minute-by-minute with the various outfits they

creative people. It is also for the music lover who does not play but instead forms the core audience musicians most love. You are in the inner circle of the "true listeners." If you care about what you hear and want to know more about what is out there, you are the person I have in mind as I write these postings. If music isn't an important part of your life this blog is probably not for you.

Various musical genres get attention on these pages: jazz and rock with guitarists and/or bassists playing a prominent role, classical music for the guitar, world music, blues, roots, electric music, vocalists.

I cover other jazz and improvisation on the Gapplegate Music Review blog (see link on this page) and modern classical and avant garde concert music on the new blogsite Classical-Modern Music Review (see link).

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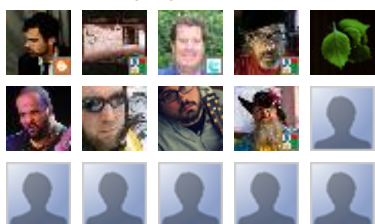
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wore on a different occasions. A little of this might have been enough--to give you the all-important visual impact of the band in full flower. As it is it tends to distract a little from the band-in-a-club actuality that the music portrays.

All-in-all, though, this is a very revealing documentary on a group that still sounds rootsy and strong. They used the elementality of their musical endowment to excellent advantage. They showed the punks to come that you could create real style out of a few chords, a lot of power and a big attitude.

Posted by Grego Applegate Edwards at 5:59 AM

Labels: [new york doll's "lookin' fine on television" dvd](#) [gapplegate guitar review](#), [new york dolls live on film](#), [proto-punk](#), [rock history](#)

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About Me



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I've spent my life making and listening to music, editing, writing and trying to put food on the table. I've gone to music schools (Berklee College of Music, School of Contemporary Music), gotten advanced degrees in various related subjects (New York University, University of Chicago), written novels and been a working stiff like you. The rest is cannon fodder for those who steal identities, isn't it? Oh yes, I also write for Cadence, a periodical covering jazz and improv music, and All About Jazz, a website devoted to . . . guess! I ran a guitar shop for a while. That was interesting. I am working on some new cross-tempo-ed ensemble pieces. That's what I do. . . some of it anyway.

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