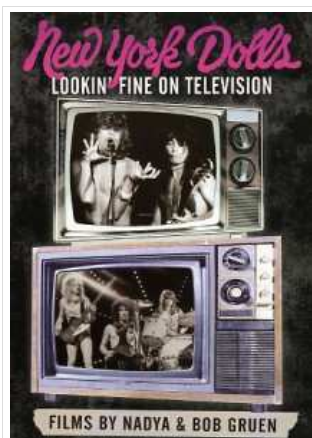




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New York Dolls – Lookin’ Fine On Television DVD

POSTED BY MARTIJN ON JANUARY - 6 - 2012



New York Dolls – Lookin’ Fine On Television

New York Dolls – Lookin’ Fine On Television DVD (dir: Nadya Beck & Bob Gruen; MVD Visual)

Arguably the most important and influential rock ‘n’ roll band of all time – at least among those bands that never sold any goddam records – New York Dolls were innovators of style and marketing, as well as pioneers of the trashy hybrid of vintage rock ‘n’ roll and early punk we lovingly call sleaze, and this DVD contains over an hour’s worth of priceless footage of the Dolls during their early 1970’s heyday. Big-time rock photojournalist Bob Gruen and his wife, Nadya Beck, followed the band around non-stop for several years, capturing a treasure trove of live, interview, and candid footage – including some great stuff with early casualty Jerry Nolan and some amazing stuff with the one and only Johnny Thunders. Although it would not be unfair to state that this film is essentially a selection of bonus features to accompany ‘All Dolled

Up’, the New York Dolls documentary released by Gruen and Beck in 2005, it also would not be unfair to say that this collection is long overdue and well worth it as a stand-alone package. This has got complete performances (along with the oft-viewed news footage) from the famous Rock ‘N’ Roll Halloween Party at the Waldorf Astoria in 1973, the whirlwind tour of Los Angeles that same year, and a slew of amazing selections from all around New York City. Each performance is ‘introduced’, in a sense, by an interview segment – some with a barely coherent David Johansen, others with an even less coherent collection of other band members. Some of the stories told here are well-known, others less so, but all of them are worth hearing straight from the mouths of the Dolls themselves. Naturally, the footage here is mostly black and white, and some of it is grainy or partially degraded from age, but the filmmakers have done an amazing job of putting it all together and polishing it up just enough to work perfectly for the Dolls. While I’ve only watched the entire film twice so far, I must admit that I’ve watched the Johnny Thunders portion of the rare 1976 interview added as a bonus at least a dozen times already... can’t get enough of his Frankie Valli impression, I suppose! **The Impaler**

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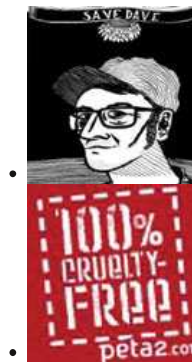
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