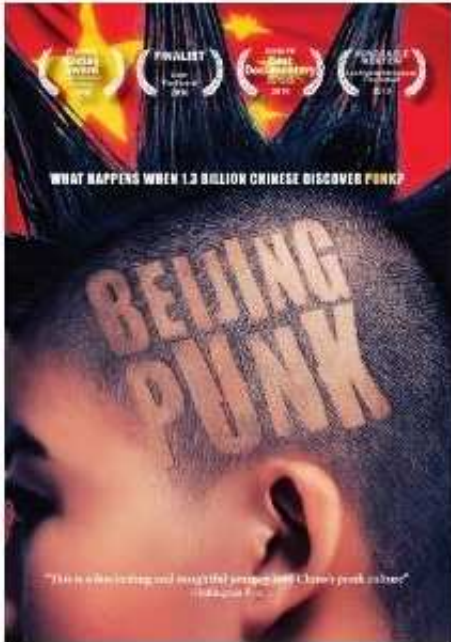


Beijing Punk



(<http://www.dvdsnapsnot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/BeijingPunk.jpg>) **Official Synopsis:**

When the Olympics came to China the world spotlight turned to a country synonymous with human rights abuse and by any measure a totalitarian police state. But under the surface is a growing movement of punks and misfits, the irony of which is not lost on the filmmakers.

Our Take:

I had no idea there was a punk scene in China till I saw **Beijing Punk** and I gotta say, I'm kinda impressed. The documentary focuses on a couple of bands trying to make music, make a couple of dollars and have a good time under supreme government rule. I had no idea there was a punk club (called D22) in China which is similar to the iconic CBGB.

The bands themselves vary. You have the skinhead type punk, the more melodic punk, the heavy drinkers, the ones into drugs (especially codeine syrup), the band with the crazy chick drummer and the surprising part, most of the music is in English! Yeah in China, their musicians sing in English and the fans know it and dig it. I was kinda dumbfounded at that part. The documentary is a very personal look at these bands, the club and record company trying to increase their exposure. From dealing with a government that won't allow music like this on TV and censors lyrics to dealing with a culture that just seems to accept their predicament, **Beijing Punk** was an eye opener. And on top of it all, I thought some of the bands were actually pretty good and I'm not the biggest punk fan.

Special Features:

None

Conclusion:

Beijing Punk is a really good musical documentary. It follows bands trying to make it in the industry while fighting the government over censorship and travel visas. So not only is it a good musical documentary, it's a good human interest piece on top of it. I had no idea what to expect out of the film and maybe that helped me enjoy it, but whatever the reason, it is...

RECOMMENDED!

Overall Picture:

Movie: **B+**

Extra Features: **F**

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