



## CIRCLE JERKS: MY CAREER AS A JERK

(MVD, 96 minutes)

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From David Markey (*1991: The Year Punk Broke*, *Desperate Teenage Lovedolls*) comes the definitive documentary on the legendary LA punks. Markey has followed

the band since their beginning in 1979, and had footage going back to those days including plenty of live performances like Mabuhay Gardens in 1981, Stardust Ballroom in 1984. In true punk form, it's all fairly grainy; even the present-day shots have that perfect imperfection. Interviews with the surviving band members and peers (Henry Rollins, Greg Graffin), could've been shot in HD. Except that would've been the wrong vibe. The decidedly low-res imagery,

juxtaposed with a golden shower of history, enhances the tales of buying studio time with weed, ostensibly stealing songs (using Redd Kross music with Keith Morris lyrics) and fighting amongst themselves, helps transport the viewer back to the LA punk scene. It's the next best thing to having been there, especially during the good parts, of which singer Keith Morris says, "When it was great, it was fantastic."

**- RANDY HARWARD**