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9.29.12

Circle Jerks- My Career As a Jerk

Dave Markey, the guy who did *The Year Punk Broke* (and several other films) returns here with a documentary on LA's legendary Circle Jerk. Told mostly through the eyes and mouth of founding members vocalist Keith Morris (now currently fronting Off!) and guitarist Greg Hetson (also in Bad Religion) as well as quite a bit of chatter from original drummer Lucky Lehrer, too. In between these interviews is plenty of classic live footage from nearly every venue in LA as well as several other venues throughout the country. I had nearly forgotten how great of a rhythm section that Lucky Lehrer and Roger Rogerson were (Lehrer especially...a truly unique drummer, especially in the punk scene) and then later was reminded of another great rhythm section that the band had boasted of Earl Liberty on bass and Chuck Biscuits on drums. Longtime bassist Zander Schloss shows up (as does Flea, who played bass briefly) and discusses his tenure in the band (along with drummer Keith Clark) in the later 80's and the band going a tad metal, Keith's bout with [drugs and alcohol](#) and on until the end. There's not a ton of talking heads in here (refreshing for a change) tho' there are interviews with Henry Rollins and briefer ones with Brian Baker, Greg Graffin, J. Mascis and Frontier Records [head honcho](#) Lisa Fancher. In the end they discuss the break up of the band (which led to the starting of Off!) which ends the doc on a sad point, but throughout there's plenty info and footage for any self-respecting punk to sink their teeth into and then some. Well done. www.mvdb2b.com



9.3.12

Hit So Hard: The Life and Near Death Story of Patty Schemel

For most people, the band HOLE will always be the story of Courtney Love. That's not unexpected; it is her band, after all. *Hit So Hard* offers the story of Hole from a different perspective—that of drummer Patty Schemel, a powerhouse drummer who easily rivaled—and nearly drummed for—Nirvana's powerhouse drummer Dave Grohl. This documentary covers her early days, and the strong, loving bond between her and her brother Larry—close in age, he would be her band mate, traveling partner, and drug buddy. Schemel also became very close friends with Kurt Cobain, and he haunts this film. Much of the footage of the Cobain family has never been seen, and it's really touching to see Cobain—a man portrayed as moody, distant, angry, and cold—to be a loving, caring, doting father. It's to Schemel's credit that these films exist—she was an obsessive video taker in the 1990s, and this behind-the-scenes look shows that the couple weren't the cartoon characters made out to be in the press. For an added bonus, commentators from bands such as The Bangles, Luscious Jackson, Fanny, Gina Scholck, and the always funny Phranc help to add dimension to the sexism towards women drummers. Then there's Courtney, who starts off as a close friend and totally supportive of her, but then turns into an angry, cold-hearted business woman who seems unsympathetic towards the business decisions that made Schemel leave the band. Her story only gets worse, as homelessness, [drug addiction](#), and prostitution overwhelm her. She does, however, come to a decision to get clean—she had been to rehab eleven previous times—and her life turns around, first with her establishing a dog care business, then with her involvement in Rock and Roll Camp For Girls. All in all, *Hit So Hard* is a documentary that's both entertaining and haunting, informative and disturbing. www.pattydoc.com JOSEPH KYLE



4.15.12

Everyday Sunshine: The Story of Fishbone

Los Angeles-based Fishbone are a band who lived permanently on the edge. Formed by Norwood Fisher and Angelo Moore in the early 80s, while in junior high, they were soon joined by their friends, jamming in their parents' apartments. They quickly acclimated to the LA punk scene, and because of their insane live act—from changing instruments mid-song, yelling and screaming, dressed sharply and flashy, and the antics of Moore—the band quickly developed a following. They signed to Columbia, and they released a series of records that still sound like nothing else—*Truth and Soul* is a classic punk album, while "Party at Ground Zero" and "H.C.L.V." are fun hits that still sound fresh twenty five years later. But as they grew older, and