



Jacobs Music Piano Stores

www.JacobsMusic.com

Huge Piano Selection & Great Prices Browse Online Or Call 215.789.4477



[SIGN UP](#) [LOG IN](#)



REVIEWS: [CIRCLE JERKS - \[DVD\]](#)

[LIVE ALBUMS](#) [DVDS/FILMS](#)



[ADD THIS](#)

Now Playing: *'Back Against The Wall'* by the Circle Jerks

TITLE: Circle Jerks - [DVD]
LABEL: MVD Visual
DATE: 10-05-12

REVIEW BY: Bill Adams

- [Beijing Punk - \[Film\]](#)
- [The Replacements - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Circle Jerks - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Queen - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Muddy Waters & The Rolling Stones - ...](#)
- [Ozzy Osbourne - \[DVD\]](#)
- [The Zombies featuring Colin Blunstone...](#)
- [The Raconteurs - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Stone Temple Pilots - \[DVD\]](#)
- [LP - \[EP/DVD\]](#)
- [Alice Cooper - \[DVD\]](#)
- [The Vans Warped Tour - \[DVD\]](#)
- [The Rolling Stones - \[DVD/CD\]](#)
- [Queen - \[DVD\]](#)
- [The Doors - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Cage The Elephant - \[DVD\]](#)
- [Ozzy Osbourne - \[DVD\]](#)
- [John Lennon - \[CD/DVD\]](#)
- [Jane's Addiction - \[DVD\]](#)
- [The Doors - \[DVD\]](#)

[Next 20 >>](#)

[Displaying 1 - 20 of 55]

NEWS

- [\[STRAIGHT TO PRINT\] ERNIE BALL ANNOUNCES 2013...](#)
- [\[STRAIGHT TO PRINT\] NOFX Celebrate Their... Rush Finally Inducted Into The Rock N' Roll...](#)
- [\[STRAIGHT TO PRINT\] Metallica Take Ownership Of...](#)
- [Toronto Guitarist Battling Cancer Needs Your Help](#)
- [Burst Transmission: Castillo Is Out, Grohl Is... Is This Thing On?](#)
- [The Headstones Announce New Full-Length Album](#)
- [Mike Watt: Tourage](#)
- [Adam Ant Re-Enlists](#)

[Next 10 >>](#)

[Displaying 1 - 10 of 200]

RECEIVE NEW CONTENT VIA EMAIL

Enter your email address below:

[GROUND CONTROL JUKEBOX - LISTEN NOW](#)

[VISIT OUR SPONSORS](#)

Music School - NYC

www.audioschool.com

The Oldest Audio School is Now Offering Scholarships. Get Info!



Looking back, there's no question that a lot of hands helped punk and hardcore achieve the stature they enjoy today. True, Patti Smith released the first punk record in 1974 (the "Piss Factory" single) and, yes, The Ramones both set and leveled the foundation on which virtually every band who has even considered calling itself a punk group has played. Granted, Black Flag gets a lot of credit for breaking the ground and settling many of the paths punk would travel along during the 1980s (as do Minor Threat, The Minutemen and innumerable others) and Bad Religion justifiably gets kudos for founding Epitaph Records and providing the house from which the second wave of punk would spring in 1994, but the inconvenient truth for just about everyone on Earth is that the Circle Jerks may have been the most important and successful punk band to walk onstage before Nirvana, Green Day, The Offspring and Rancid made it safe to like punk rock and still sit at the cool kids' table in high school.

Don't think it's true? Look at the facts:

- Former members of The Circle Jerks include Keith Morris, Greg Hetson, Zander Schloss, Chuck Biscuits and Michael "Flea" Balzary.
- Greg Graffin maintains that The Circle Jerks were instrumental in getting Bad Religion a foothold on radio.
- It could be argued that The Circle Jerks brushed reasonably close to mainstream success when Debbie Gibson made an appearance contributing backup vocals to "I Wanna Destroy You" in 1995 – thereby pre-dating the "Special Guest" phenomenon in pop by several years.

Those are the facts and they're all presented faithfully in *My Career As A Jerk*, but that they are

the facts still seems unbelievable, in hindsight. It's unbelievable that this little band of guys who all either walked or were tossed out of other bands turned out to be the best of their vintage, but it suddenly comes into perfect focus with the testimonies of Keith Morris, guitarist Greg Hetson, bassists Earl Liberty and Zander Schloss and drummer Lucky Lehrer – they were the band of underdogs who showed everyone that, not only could they succeed beyond all of their peers, the only ones who could count them out were they, themselves.

Because the story is both so great and so unlikely, *My Career As A Jerk* does go out of its way to tell as complete an account of The Circle Jerks' story as possible – beginning with the birth of the band in 1979 after Keith Morris' departure from Black Flag and Greg Hetson's departure from Redd Kross (the original lineup included Morris, Hetson, bassist Roger Rogerson and drummer Lucky Lehrer) and running all the way up through the formation of Morris' new band OFF! in 2009. Through that run, the film depicts images which are fantastic, but not all of them are glossy or pretty; discussions of the decidedly "un-straight-edge" vices of beer and cocaine as well as Keith Morris' abuse of both through the darker years in the , and the group's desire to be the biggest band in the world are presented with knee-buckling candor, as is the in-fighting which always plagued the group and the disillusionment which manifested after Morris left the band to form OFF!. Nothing is glossed over and no effort is made to spare feelings as Morris' arrogance is painted pretty plainly both through old concert footage and new, on-camera interviews and Greg Hetson's insecurity gets presented initially when he confesses that he wasn't a very good guitar player when the Circle Jerks started before the hints of a bruised ego emerge when the guitarist confides that he can't understand how everything fell apart while simultaneously name-dropping Bad Religion as well as his position in that band.

At every turn throughout the film, *My Career As A Jerk* takes great care to stay as "real" as possible (that is, there are no myth-making attempted – viewers simply get the Circle Jerkswarts, flaws and all here) and succeeds brilliantly because of its "honesty above all else – band members and egos be damned" view point. It might sound bizarre, but that somehow suits both the Circle Jerks as well as the general attitude which was always within the band perfectly; occasionally bordering on crass, the dry-eyed and ambitious but also unsure tenor endures through *My Career As A Jerk* from top to bottom just as it did through both the band itself as well as every note of music they ever made. This documentary is perfect.

Artist:

www.wegotpowerfilms.com

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Circle-Jerks

See Also:

[Circle Jerks - My Career As A Jerk trailer](#)

DVD:

Circle Jerks - My Career As A Jerk is out now on MVD Visual. Buy it here on [Amazon](#).

**FREE
LAUNDRY
COUPONS**

