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Circle Jerks: My Career As A Jerk Documentary

BY JUSTIN ANGEL – POSTED ON FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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I remember vividly the first time I heard the Circle Jerks' *Group Sex* album. I was 14. While my Mom would shop in Phar-Mor, I'd be digging through their cut out bins. I found *Group Sex* in that bin for 3 bucks. I bought it immediately, guessing correctly it was a punk album. I read the lyrics before I got home and had my face melted when I finally put it in the player at home. "Deny Everything" sold me. Track 1 sold me. I can't name many albums that have done that. A few months later, the reunited Circle Jerks played at the Music Farm in Charleston. A well-timed sleep over led to an attempt to go see them in action. No dice- it was an 18 and over show. I don't remember my first kiss, getting my driver's license, losing my virginity or having my first beer but I remember buying the Circle Jerks' *Group Sex* on CD. That should tell you how incredible that record is or how screwed up my priorities were as a teenager, depending on how you look at it. When I got handed this DVD to review, I got excited. Then, I got really scared. I didn't want anything to tarnish how awesome that album was in my eyes and I didn't want to screw up and not do justice to a band who I consider to be so amazing. I'm not going to give too many details on this documentary because I don't want to spoil it for you- you deserve better than that. I'll start by saying, it didn't tarnish anything.

One of the first things that I noticed about the film was Keith Morris' honesty. The guy has no problem throwing anyone, himself included, under the bus. He's as quick to call himself out as he is anyone else. Other members of the band aren't less honest, just doing the best they can to remember some really difficult stuff in a positive light. It's not often you get to hear the story from the first person in music. Do you think Jimmy Page is going to talk about the mud shark? not a freakin' chance. Do you think Steven Tyler is going to talk about dating a 13 year old? no way. The Jerks will talk about all their issues right out in the open, it's all out on the table. They talk about the near revolving door of members, even adding a few you probably didn't know were members. How Bad Religion factors into the dissolution of the Circle Jerks is interesting. The fact that there is no artificial luster applied here, you see the members as being regular people doing something extraordinary is something that even a lot of other punk docs fail to do. It's fascinating to see the story put together and laid out, no holds barred, by the people who lived it.

Do yourself a favor, buy this, rent this, download this, or whatever. If you have an interest in the history of punk, hardcore or metal (and they effected all of those), this is highly recommended if not mandatory viewing. If you doubt how big of an impact this band had- Google "Circle Jerks" or "Group Sex" it doesn't bring up porn immediately. That alone is an achievement and a cultural imprint. You matter more than the acts you named your band and album after. If you've never heard "Group Sex", make a trip to the record store or youtube or where ever you get your music from and take 25 minutes out of your day to have your mind totally blown.

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About Billy Metts - Billy Metts is 230 pounds of walkin', talkin', rompin', stompin', pure graveyard destruction, currently residing Bad Street U.S.A. The further down Bad Street you go, the badder it gets. Billy lives in the last house and don't you forget it.

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About Justin Angel

Cheatin' death since 1988 with a metal soundtrack the entire way! Music in general has always been the thing to get me through tough times in my life. It is religion for me, so now I'm going to continue doing what I love. I'm going to keep grabbing up and digesting any music that comes my way and share my opinions on it. I'm always open to discuss them with anyone and hear the opinions of others.

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