



November 6, 2012

**CIRCLE JERKS - MY CAREER AS A JERK (DVD) - MVD**

60/100

Film maker/director David Markey created this documentary about the late 70's, 80's and hiatus, fight and death interrupted later years California punk band. Circle Jerks were formed by ex-Black Flag members and others. The early and latter story is told by members with some rather odd unexplained trivia like how a band of this style would be allowed to rehearse in a church, as was the case in their early days. Interviews, some very detailed, talk about the band evolving, getting banned from clubs, changing members and include many other lesser known tidbits. Footage of crazy concerts with pits and stage dives and images of the same are thrown in to provide context. One obvious thing is that Circle Jerks concert footage is not rare at all as it is liberally used here. Some other funny and fun facts are guitarist Greg Hetson retelling the story of a concert where the audience threw watermelons and pieces of chicken at the band, the band calling their fifth album VI just for the fun of it and the band adding seconds to their songs just to make them seem longer. Lots more interesting trivia are told by others including Keith Morris, Lucky Lehrer, Earl Liberty and Zender Schloss. This is not just for punk fans and My Career As A Jerk is worth a watch. Circle Jerks were featured on the Decline Of The Western Civilization film. - Anna Tergel

**PUPPETS WHO KILL: THE BEST OF SEASON 3 AND 4 (2DVD) - VSC**

50/100

Puppets Who Kill's original run ended in 2006, this 'the best of' is a reminder or revisit for many who may have long forgotten about the series. The story of four puppets or dolls (Cuddles "created to help people with problems ... now he is the problem" the comfort doll, Buttons the bear, Bill the ventriloquist dummy and Rocko the dog) who live in a halfway house "in a last desperate stab at rehabilitation" with owner Dan Barlow (played by Comedian Dan Redican) is an often profanity-laced, sometimes witty story of the weirdness that the four and other myriad characters are involved in. Naturally each doll has its or his own nuttier side, be it the aforementioned profanity fetish, the overactive sexual drive, the psychopathic behaviour or just simply aggressive nature. The comedic standard is not always the highest and as such it sometimes fails to keep viewer interest, especially when a 'best of' in itself is near 290 minutes. However, there are high moments including one where at a corporate presentation Rocko the dog, along with Bill the ventriloquist dummy, advices a board meeting - chaired by Canadian actor Gord Robertson - by declaring that "Based on my lengthy experience in prison here are my tips on how to improve efficiency of an organization; One, it pays to lie like a bastard..."

Thirteen episodes and extras make up this, not properly chaptered, double DVD. Episode titles include Buttons And The Make A Wish Foundation and The CBC Is Killing Again. The extras are mainly made up of writer and director commentary, John Pattison and Shawn Alex Thompson in this case. - Anna Tergel

**SISTER SMILE - THE TRAGIC TALE OF THE SINGING NUN (DVD) - MVD VISUAL**

50/100

Sister Smile is the story of Soeur Sourire also known as the Singing Nun, a Belgian nun here played by Ginevra Colonna. She gained mainstream success in 1963 with a single called "Dominique." This Italian language film tracks her youth from taking up the guitar and joining a convent to her eventual lesbian relationship and eventual death. We see her having nightmares of being plunged into hell and dreams of singing with guitar in hand. At one point she leaves the convent, without warning, and rumours soon spread that she has joined a satanic cult. Instead she joins the 'Hope House' where she meets the counselor, played by Simona Caparrini, whom she falls in love with. We see her unusual behaviour such as placing a tape on her mouth and drawing lipstick over it or drawing on her chest while in front of a mirror. The director tries to draw a picture of an unstable person who suddenly runs to her father but returns to her lover soon after. The film showcases the darker side of Sister Smile's life and with the short-lived success barely given a place. This is director and screenwriter Roger Deutsch's take on a real life story, sometimes powerful sometimes confusing and underwhelming.

Two short films by the director, Dead People and Mario Makes A Movie make up the bonus material. Italian with English subtitles. - Anna Tergel

**SPOKANARCHY - WHERE WERE YOU IN '82? (DVD) - CARNAGE & ROUGE**

40/100

SpokAnarchy is a documentary about the early 80's punk rock scene in the city of Spokane, USA. It starts with a brief history of the city where it is called the 'biggest hick town'. Jack Kendall, a vintage clothing storeowner from the area described as a destination for 'youth with the outsider culture', talks a bit about the times. Jan Gregor of Sweet Madness, an early punk band of the era, gives his thoughts too so does Charlie Schmidt, a graphic artist. Many characters continue to give their take on the situation and atmosphere back then, these include Francois 'one of the first punk rockers in Spokane' Haraldson, Mikal Vollmer who published a zine back then and other natives or those who happened to live at or near the