

# ROCK-A-ROLLA

## “Circle Jerks: My Career As A Jerk” (MVD)

Dave Markey has been at the forefront of documenting hardcore music and culture from its inception in the early 1980s, and his latest film “My Career As A Jerk” documents the haphazard world of L.A’s first hardcore supergroup, the legendary Circle Jerks. Taking a cue from the no-frills paradigm of “American Hardcore”, it is a succession of talking head interviews with ex group members and leading lights of the scene, notably guitarist Greg Hetson and the garrulous, indefatigable vocalist Keith Morris in a straightforward linear history of the band. Circle Jerks were the hedonistic flipside to the prevailing nihilism of LA hardcore, their hard playing, hard partying attitude closer to Van Halen than Black Flag given the tales of abuse that dominate this debauched tale. Where this film really scores is with its vast archive of live footage from its earliest days in 1979 up to its most recent incarnation in 2009. The live footage featuring the explosive Chuck Biscuits/Earl Liberty rhythm section alone makes this essential viewing and as a whole the film is a distinguished addition to the cinematic history of hardcore.

review by Kevin McCaighy