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The Stranglers

On Stage, On Screen DVD

MVD Visual

Together since '74, The Stranglers- one of the longest surviving original punk bands- may have had a few line up shuffles and varied their sound from time to time, but there is no denying that they have evolved into a remarkably solid punk rock powerhouse. Need proof? Just watch any 10 minutes of the stellar On Stage, On Screen and it's clear just how great this band can be.

Recorded in 2005 at The Shepherd's Bush Empire, this concert film includes a 79- minute electric set and an even more impressive acoustic set (sadly, this one only clocks in at 30 minutes). The group – a five piece during these shows – is in remarkably tight form, running through their better known hits like “Peaches,” “Skin Deep,” and “No More Heroes,” as well as some imaginative covers like a solid goth punk take on “Walk on By.”

Also coupled with these two great performances is the short arty (though a tad bit goofy) film North Coast, featuring members of the band. My advice? Skip the short and play the concert portions again.

Unlike fellow alums The Sex Pistols, who embarrass themselves every decade or so with a blatant cash grab trotting out the same dozen songs, The Stranglers have managed to evolve quite nicely with an impressive catalogue of hits... and no one has had to resort to a celebrity realty show yet.

-John B. Moore

