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Europe, US Fest, Black Lips

By Bob Suehs



'83 US Festival - Days 1 - 3

dvd

The sad reality about this dvd is the fact that the Motley Crue & Van Halen sets are NOT included as part of this packaging and the bulk of this program has already been shown on VH-1.

Day #1 featured The Divinyls and I'll admit that I had no clue who the band even was prior to their hit "I Touch Myself". Seeing old footage of The Divinyls I'll admit I'm impressed and will definitely check out the band's older material because I had no idea they had hard rock/punk roots!

INXS were a young band in their prime and their performance of "The One Thing" is stellar but Stray Cats are my pick for the best performance of Day #1. There's a trivia portion that reveals The Clash & Van Halen argued during Day #1 and The Clash stated that Van Halen didn't belong there while David Lee Roth called The Clash a garage band.

Day #2 was "metal" day and Judas Priest owned the day with the band churning out scorching metal anthems to the metal starved rock crowd.

The Scorpions were great on Day #2 and seeing the band in spandex with a lot more hair was a

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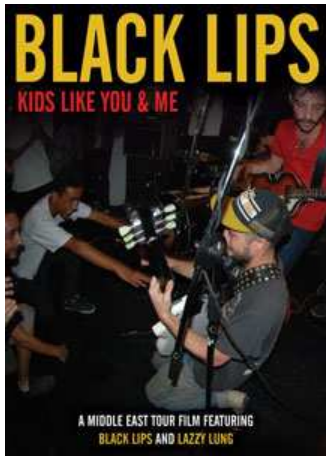
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kick.

Day#3 was hit or miss....Berlin were ok but I think Terri Nun got better with age. Quarterflash bored the hell out of me, U2 were ok if you like that sorta thing and Missing Persons are my pick for best of Day#3.

Again I'll state that not including Motley Crue & Van Halen on this set is a crime but all in all this dvd is a cool documentation of the 1983 US fest!



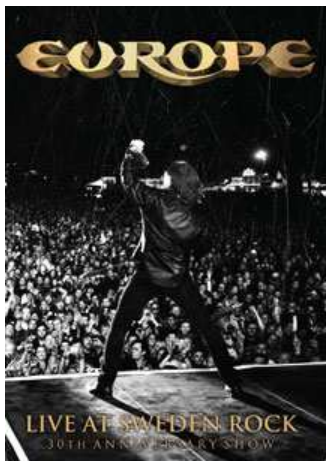
Black Lips

"Kids Like You & Me" dvd

I was personally annoyed by the hipster hell that IS Black Lips but I can see why their fan base adores the band...they deliver passionate performances despite their lackluster musicianship.

This dvd traces the bands tour of the Middle East and if you're not a diehard fan of Black Lips or Lazy Lung you might not enjoy this release.

Hipster bands don't party hard.... there's no random drunken nights captured on this dvd, no crazy groupies, there's no rock clichés ala what you might have seen on all of the Pantera home videos. What you see is the band talking about their experience(s) touring, random footage of the band members eating local foods and I give the director credit for putting together a good movie BUT the subject (Black Lips) is just a tad boring after a certain point.



EUROPE

"Live At Sweden Rock - 30th Anniversary Show" dvd

I will admit that I knew 2 Europe songs prior to viewing this dvd...they were the 2 singles released here in the States many years ago and based on those 2 singles I never bothered checking out anything else from the band because I always lumped them in the cheesy hair metal category.

Let me tell you that Europe progressed past the "Final Countdown" era and the bands music went heavier and at times a tad prog which impressed the hell of me because I expected this dvd to be chock full o' cheesy power ballads and what I actually saw was epic metal that blew me away!

John Norum is a highly underrated guitarist & he shines on this disc. When Michael Schenker joins the band for a cover of "Lights Out" the pace turns to classic metal and it's an amazing moment in time captured on this dvd.

The companion audio cd which captures the entire audio of this dvd is equally as impressive and all I can say is, if you only know the 2 singles ("Carrie" & "Countdown") you are missing out because Europe has an amazing catalog of metal music well worth checking out!

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