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PUNK IN AFRICA - THREE CHORDS THREE COUNTRIES ONE REVOLUTION ... (DVD) - MVD VISUAL

The DVD starts with a quote attributed to the late Nigerian musician and activist Fela Kuti that goes "In Africa music cannot be for entertainment it must be for revolution." A very brief history of the African struggle paves the way for what punk (and its predecessors like Ska and Reggae) stood for and meant in Africa and elsewhere. For the purposes of this DVD the story spans South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The story of late '70s Durban, South Africa-based Wild Youth is told via band members and the strange scene of white members playing a street gig outdoors in the middle of city among blacks is seen as fascinating. The theme is mainly that of the depression of the time and the struggles and fears of being watched by the state police. A similar story is told about and by Johannesburg, Cape Town and Pretoria-based bands and in particular the multiracial band of the same era National Wake and Warrick Sony's Kalahari Surfers. The scene shifts to Mozambique but to a band, 340ml, that was and is based in South Africa. Similarly, The Rudimentals is a mix of South African and Zimbabwean members who tell a different but same story of struggle that is probably not wholly unique to Africa but more unique to living under oppression and legacy of colonialism. The film ends with a glimpse of bands based elsewhere in Africa like Kenya and Cape Verde. Punk In Africa can be viewed in English, German, Spanish or Portuguese. Bonus material is comprised of music by most of the bands featured in the film. – Anna Tergel

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