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# DOMEH EID

FILM REVIEWS AND AN OCCASIONAL CRAIC HABIT

FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2008

## Punk's Not Dead (2007) - ickleReview (DVD)



Ashley and Ursula at the Drunk Tank house. Film still from *Punk's Not Dead*.

How many punk rockers does it take to change a light bulb? None, because punk rockers don't change anything. Thirty years on from The Sex Pistols, The Damned, and The Ramones, punk bands are still making the same bad noises, protesting against the same failures of society, and wearing the same clothes and hairstyles.

Punks never were good musicians. And that's partly the point. "It didn't matter if anybody had any talent or could do anything," says Bruce Loose from Flipper. "It was whether they had the balls or the guts to get up and do it." This is DIY music for the underdog, music that anyone could get up and play in their local basement club (and anyone often did get up and play). Punk was a reaction against prog-rock, arena gigs, 7-minute guitar solos, vocal harmonies, and light shows. Punk was music with a message, a raw message screamed in your face with all the subtlety of a toddler's tantrum. Punk was "hippies with teeth". But hippies didn't change the world with their message of peace and free love; and neither did punks. "Things that we sing about could be construed as cliché, as far as punk rock is concerned," admits Kevin De Franco, lead singer of The God Awfuls. "But it's not us that is cliché. It's the fucking world. Nothing ever changes."



## WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?



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I am a DPhil student in English Language and Literature, researching "Palimpsesting in James Joyce" at Hertford College, Oxford. I was born in Scotland but started school in Germany. Read my [self-portrait](#) if you would like to decipher some of the lacunae of this boggled autobiography.

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