



DVD REVIEW

Punk's Not Dead

MVD Visual, 2008

Understand this, *Punk's Not Dead* is not simply a "documentary tribute". This film not only covers a wide scope of punk sub-genres, but is also a "band participation" project in which many groups and artists documented here, actually donated images and video footage from their personal archives. Personal photos, early concert posters and homemade videos from the road litter this film throughout. That feature alone makes this documentary special.

In the true sense of punk culture, this independent, "self-financed" project is a labor of love for director Susan Dynner, who was greatly influenced herself by the Washington DC punk scene of the early 80's. The film takes an era-by-era approach as it delves into not only the bands that made punk famous, but how the genre rose from anarchy in its' infant stages to a recognized, accepted and now even respected part of pop culture.

To Dynner's credit, she ventures far beyond the punk surface of The Ramones and The Sex Pistols, digging up many early, influential punk bands that often times get lost in the timeline such as The Addicts, Flipper, The Germs, The Subhumans, The Used and The God Awfuls. You can also throw in several more modern bands that walk the fine line between punk and metal; a loud, fuzzy barrier that wavers between these two, like-minded movements.

Dynner also explores the political and social impact punk music has had on society, making this DVD not just a music title, but also a history lesson creating insightful social commentary making one realize the true impact the punk movement had - and still has - on the world around us. This is a highly recommended piece of "underground" music history and a must-get for all punk rockers.

- Joe Milliken