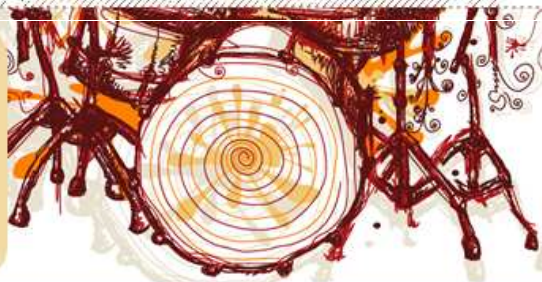


jersey beat

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BEST OF G.G. ALLIN & THE MURDER JUNKIES - DVD

by Johnny Puke

"The Best Of GG Allin and The Murder Junkies" DVD - (mvdvisual.com)

There are more than enough GG dvds in the world, most of them various re-packagings of the live shows he did with the various incarnations of The Murder Junkies, and in a way this one is no different. Fans who have the live footage from the Houston, Austin, Knoxville, Chicago and Atlanta shows will have most of the material here, but it is the way that this DVD is thrown together that makes it unique.



One of the best editing jobs I have ever seen in a punk video was a release called "Along The Way" featuring BAD RELIGION, shot by a few Germans who followed the band around on a European tour. The tight editing of "Along The Way" showed multiple camera angles from multiple shows, but all synched perfectly to one live audio track; if you didn't notice the stages changing or the different t-shirts on the band members, you would not have noticed it wasn't one seamlessly edited performance. The same can be said for "The Best Of GG Allin and The Murder Junkies", where gems from GG's early career like "Bite It You Scum" and "I Wanna Rape You" are performed live alongside his later MJ material like "Kill The Police" and "Look Into My Eyes & Hate Me" to a seamless if fuzzy live audio track, while the edited images of the songs being performed can include footage from 6 or so live shows.

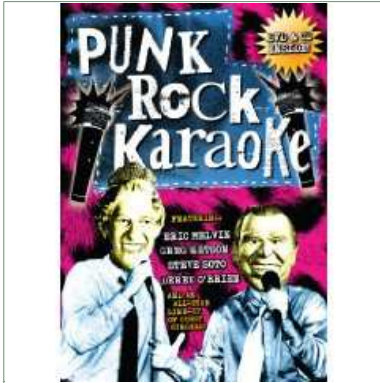
The packaging here leaves lots to be desired, from a superfluous paragraph on the back cover from Hank Williams III, to the complete lack of any information on the DVD's contents, including a credit for whomever ably edited the whole 12 song compilation. For me, I had forgotten how much fun some of these songs were, from the hilarious "Cunt Sucking Cannibal" and "Expose Yourself To Kids," to GG's more autobiographical and edgy songs like "I Live To Be Hated" and "Gypsy Motherfucker." For fans, this may be worth getting just to see the 25 minutes or so of an anonymous person interviewing GG's mother Arleta, a sweet, compassionate, and proud matriarch who gives her opinions on the family's past, GG's history, her opinions of his career, and perhaps most poignantly, GG's death in June of 1993. Footage like this will force a lot of ALLIN's fans to try and reconcile the real-life GG as seen by his mother - and the context she brings by talking about GG as someone with a loving family and a history - with the violent and

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bloody performance footage that precedes it.



PUNK ROCK KARAOKE CD/DVD
(www.mvdvisual.com)

One of the most fun times I ever had as a singer was getting to sing The DEAD BOYS' "Sonic Reducer" with PUNK ROCK KARAOKE at the House of Blues in Las Vegas several years ago. For those of you unfamiliar with the band or their concept, with PUNK ROCK KARAOKE the band plays covers from a list of over 60 punk rock classics by The MISFITS, BAD BRAINS, etc), and you as the audience member do the singing. The kicker

comes from the fact that the band playing all these punk greats are...well, punk greats themselves, with Eric Melvin (NOFX) and Greg Hetson (RED CROSS, CIRCLE JERKS, BAD RELIGION) on guitars, Steve Soto (ADOLESCENTS, AGENT ORANGE) on bass, and Derek O'Brien (SOCIAL DISTORTION) on drums.

This DVD features Karaoke-like videos with the scrolling words that you can sing over at home, parties, etc, with 10 songs originally done by BLACK FLAG, DESCENDENTS, etc. The extras part gives you a short introduction to the band, then a few songs from the live set with audience members becoming their favorite singer for 3 minutes and rocking out. Beyond the DVD, though, is the CD that is included in the package that has PRK recording punk classics with guest vocalists like LAGWAGON'S Joey Cape, ALKALINE TRIO's Matt Skiba, and MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES Dickie Barrett. Hearing THE VANDALS Warren Fitzgerald do the BUZZCOCKS, or PENNYWISE's Jim Lindberg put his spin on the CIRCLE JERKS classic "Back Up Against The Wall," is a hoot. I must admit I have not had the opportunity to try the full on Karaoke offered on this DVD, but some buds are coming over this weekend with a bunch of beer so...who knows?!

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