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Blank Generation: Classic DVD Reissue

Published March 31, 2010 by:
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Let's Conquer the World

New York City in the late 1970's and 1980 may have been considered by many in the modern day to be a very different place indeed. The punk scene in New York City was still alive and vibrant and the film "**Blank Generation**," encapsulates the flavor of the time in stunning relief. **Blank Generation** was a film shot in 1980 starring Richard Hell (as punk rocker Billy) and Carole Bouquet (as filmmaker Nada) who are passing lovers who fight and love and fight some more. While I was able to appreciate the flavor of this movie (I love New York City when you can see your breath but when you don't have to button up a coat) and of course the music was excellent, I was left with a blank feeling by this films end. Maybe that was the point, but before we

get to the end, let's start at the beginning.

Nada is in New York trying to make a film; Billy is a rocker who is amazed with the possibilities of life. Billy is also not the most savvy business person; this makes Nada furious; Billy's music is everywhere but she feels he's being taken advantage of.

Billy is much more interested in the ethos of: "Let's conquer the world!" There is one exchange, early on in the film, which I feel gets to the crux of my problem with this movie. This may have been the filmmaker's intent all along, but it drove me and my wife batty. Billy and Nada are driving in Billy's car:

Billy: Where do you want to go?

Nada: I'll go wherever you want

B: How 'bout the beach?

N: Yeah!

B: East Hampton?

Then there is a pause in the action as Billy considers this. Mind you, it's October.

B: ...Maybe we should go back

N: Why?

B: I gotta make some phone calls

N: If you want to go back we can go back

Another pause in the conversation, then.

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B: New York City is a drag on Fridays; maybe we should go to the beach

N: I'll do whatever you like

Another brief pause.

B: ...There won't be anybody at the beach today

N: That's wonderful!

B: ...Might be a drag though

N: Why?!

B: It's depressing; it's so damn cold. You sure you wanna go there?

N: (getting excited) I told you I don't care!

B: Don't get excited

N: I'm not getting excited!!

B: Just because you want to go to the beach...

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