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Blank Generation (1980/MVD Visual DVD)

Picture: C Sound: C
Extras: C Film: C-

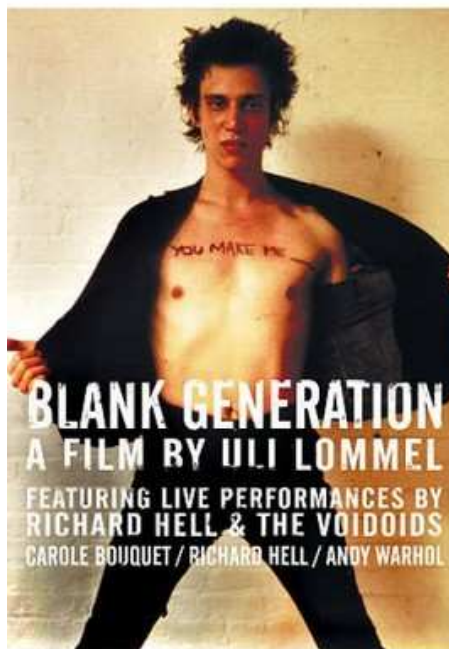
Just before taking permanent residence making B-movie horror after the notable release of **The Boogeyman** in 1980 (it was all downhill from there), Ulli Lommel directed **Blank Generation** issued earlier the same year. In an unlikely Punk retelling of a Rock Music cliché, the great French actress Carole Bouquet plays Nada, a reporter who is out to cover the Punk scene and pursues Billy (played by Richard Hell of the Voidoids) in a film that at least manages to capture the pre-cleaned up New York City and Time Square when it was still rough and urban as can be.

Bouquet returned to French cinema unaffected, but her next film was as Melina in **For Your Eyes Only**, one of the best James bond films ever made in 1981, a year later (reviewed elsewhere on this site). The best moment is when she talks to Andy Warhol, playing himself in a cameo, but she sadly comes across awkwardly and cannot save the film either. A curio some will want to see just once, this is otherwise a fans-only release.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image is not in the best of shape for a film shot in 35mm with grain, print damage, softness and depth issues. The film also has two cinematographers whose work fits together well: Atze Glanert and legendary Edward Lachman (**Less Than Zero**, **Light Sleeper**, **The Limey**, **The Virgin Suicides**) and this work needs to be restored and preserved better than what we see here. The Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono is also weak, noisy and a few generations down. Punk rockers might like this kind of rough sound, but you and your system likely will not and dialogue is not helped by it either. Nor is the early score by Elliot Goldenthal, who later returned to film music with great scores for **Alien 3**, **Batman Forever**, **Heat** and **Public Enemies**.

Extras include pieces on the stars, a 45-minutes-long Hell interview by Luc Sante of Hell and live performance by Hell & The Voidoids at CBGBs.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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