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## Blank Generation: Richard Hell & the Voidoids

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### Blank Generation: Richard Hell & the Voidoids (Cult)

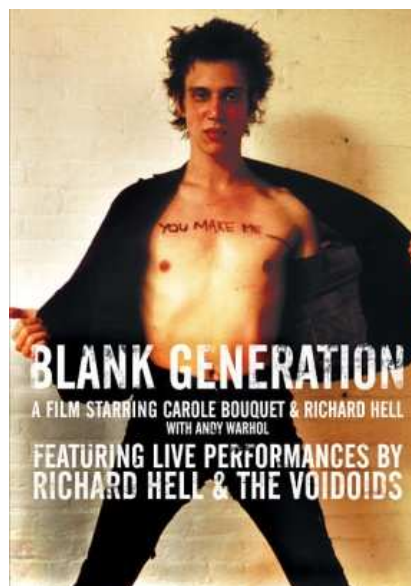
"Blank Generation" is the story of Billy (Richard Hell), a rising figure in 1970s New York's punk scene. Billy's story is that of being exploited by the execs who think he's a "sure-fire investment," while navigating his chaotic relationship with Nada, a French TV journalist.

When asked what he'll do if he becomes successful, he replies, "I'll try something else." Billy is someone who can't handle success; when he looks out at the people disinterestedly watching him, he walks off stage in the middle of a song at one of his big CBGB's gigs. Billy laments not being able to create in his audience the same feelings that drive him to write his songs.

"Blank Generation" explores in Billy the paradox of the "punk rock star." What is one to do when one becomes loved by society for fighting against it? How can someone who rails against commercialism become a commodity? And what does it do to him? These are the questions that face Billy.

To make things even more complicated, Billy's relationship with Nada is extreme in its volatility. The clash between Billy's aloofness and Nada's hot/cold passion drives them apart, back together, and apart again. Nada is obsessed with her own work, looking at everything through a camera lens, and resents Billy for having success without caring about it. These relationships are further complicated when a German journalist enters the scene.

The film's main plot is entertaining as schadenfreude, but the best parts of the film are the Voidoids' performances in CBGB's, and the interview with Richard Hell that is also included on the DVD. The interview delves into Richard Hell's feelings about working in a movie that was written about and for him. It breaks down the themes and gives an inside look at how the movie came about.



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