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Celluloid Insanity By The Film Fanatic FOR The Film Fanatic

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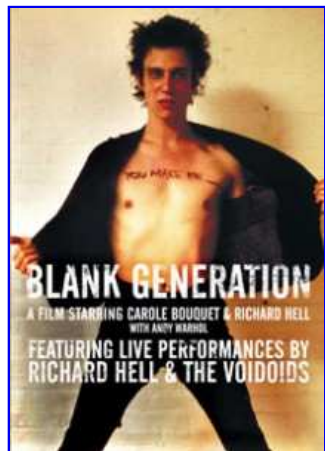
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Love Comes In spurts!

April 3, 2010 by [admin](#)

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Blank Generation (1980)

Written & Directed By: Uli Lommel

Review Written By: Justin Bozung

Mondo Film & Video Guide Co-Founder

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What's the first thing that POP's into your mind when you think punk rock? A mohawk? The Ramones? The Misfits? The iconic image of Sid Vicious with his retarded Elvis lip smear, with his bowling ball pose? Before the mohawk, the pad a lock on chain around a junky dude's neck riddled with track marks on his arms, there was a group of musicians in New York creating exciting melodic spurts of energy with their gee-tars. Patti Smith, Television and very importantly, Richard Hell and his merry band of scum, The Voidoids. Richard Hell was and still is a extremely talented and brilliant musician, writer, and speaker. His music was punk rock, before the "label" had crosses the Atlantic. The nutzoid that brought you – the one and only song to bang your ole lady too, *Love Comes In spurts*, in 1978 was offered a starring role in a feature film. And he took the it!

A film and music collectors digital wet dream, Blank Generation is a modestly improvised film, set in New York City in the late 70's, and stars Hell as Billy, a dis-encharnted up and coming Avenue A rock and roller, who can't figure out his lot in the music world or with women. While finally available on DVD through the brilliant help of the great MVD Distributors. Blank Generation is a film'd version of the Titanic going down at 3am, and all you can hear are the screams of the women and children, except in this occasion, the screaming is the *FUCKIN KICK ASS MUSIC OF*

RICHARD HELL!

By the way, why the hell are you driving a car around in New York City, Richard Hell?

Blank Generation is a nightmare, the script walked out the door on the first day of shooting. The director of the film, Uli Lommel, pulled the idea out of his behind, wiped the concept on film stock, and blew Andy Warhol to get a three minute cameo. Which comes at the very end of the film, but Warhol is billed as the star of the film! **Just because I say mean things, doesn't mean that I don't love you!**

While the film is a disaster on celluloid. It does have some beautiful and interesting things dragging alongside. Regardless of what Richard Hell says in the extra features on the DVD, he does produce a really great, solid, honest performance, probably more method than character. And with all the performance footage of Hell and his band at the now defunct CBGB's, Blank Generation is worth owning simply on that note. On another level, it's really a product of a time, and it's a capsule of yesterdays with all it's greazy footage of the great New York of the 70's. Too bad Lommel, had his head up his tooter, and didn't shoot the whole darn thing up in the sleazy 70's Times Square! The score done for the film is a sure standout, brilliant in all facets, and it reminds me personally, of the scores of old 1950's B&W Film Noir's. The kind where the private dick, walks out from the shadows and says "She was trouble from the minute I saw her..."

This release on DVD marks Hell's commentary about the film. And after you watch the film, you'll ask, what the HELL took him so long? The DVD release shines bright with these extra features. Hell sits down all these years later with film critic Luc Sante, and gives probably one of the most in depth interviews of his life, focusing on the film. Hell bends the film over, and just rapes it, even his own performance. He even goes as far as to say, that he's actually "ashamed" of it. I was quite floored when I heard this, I had to clean my ears, and was impressed that MVD has the testies to release such information on something they are trying to sell. Overall, while not a great film, it's really an important film, that documents the punk movement before it was "punk" or a brand concept. Enjoy...It's the only really good film footage of Hell and The Voidoids live in concert! And your enjoyment will come in SPURTS, when you look at it for what it is!

Justin Bozung is the Co-Founder Of The Mondo Film & Video Guide. You can email him directly at justinb@mondo-video.com

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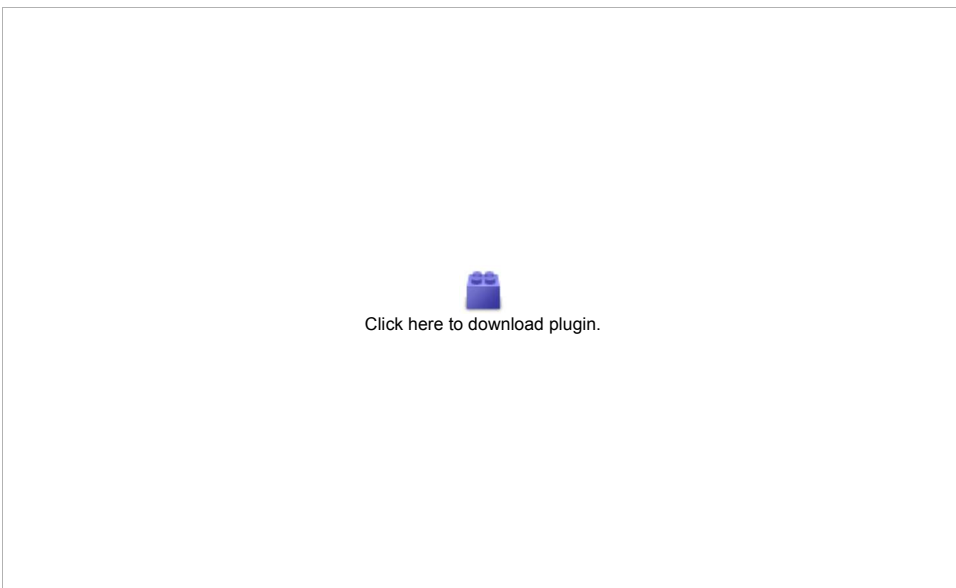
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