



"Blank Generation" starring Richard Hell (MVDvisual, 3 stars)

This Feb. 23 DVD captures New York City at the end of the first punk rock scene, around 1978. It stars former Television/Heartbreakers bassist and vocalist Richard Hell as an up-and-coming punk rocker named Billy along with Carole Bouquet as a beautiful French journalist named Nada who is videotaping a feature about him. She enters into a volatile relationship with Billy that causes most of the movie's conflicts. The acting is wooden, sound levels are low, but fans of early days punk rock will want the segments featuring Richard fronting The Voidoids at CBGB's with the future Marky Ramone on drums.

A lengthy interview with Richard Hell fills in some of the blanks that the sketchy script of the movie doesn't, as well as explaining why he decided that acting wasn't his bag.

- Ricky Flake