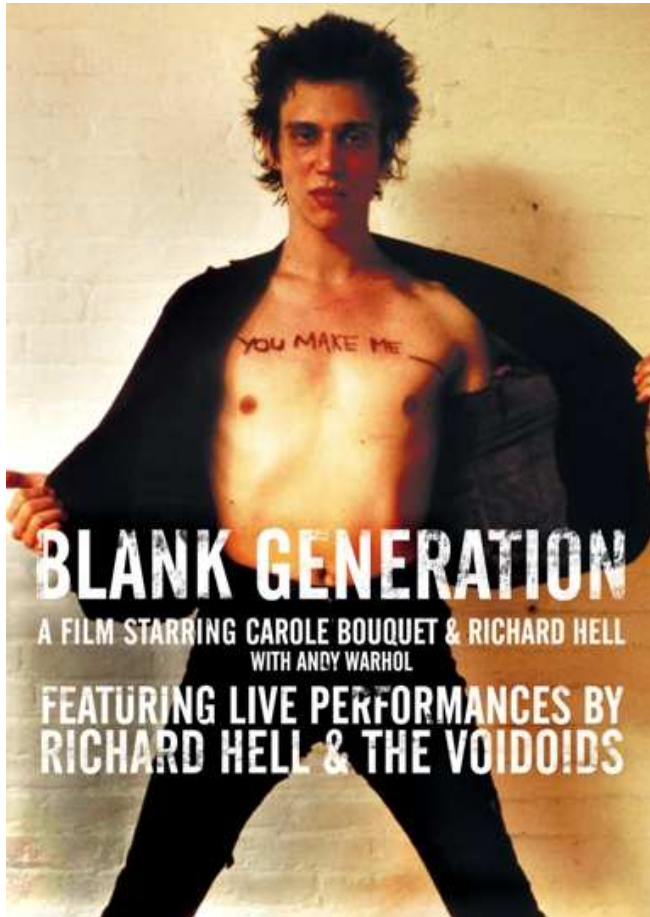


The Impaler Speaks

Blank Generation starring Richard Hell

@mvdentgroup Have you seen this film starring Richard Hell? If not, find a copy and watch it. You're not doing anything else tomorrow, and you're probably gonna be hungover anyway. This review is from early 2010 and was first published in [Mass Movement](#) 26.



Blank Generation

Two contrasting statements that both ring true about this film: 1) It's terrible. 2) It's undeniably essential. German director Ulli Lommel shows himself to be vapidly obsessed with Warholian artiness, if not outright cluelessness; the acting – by every single person who delivers a line – is stilted to the point of absurdity; and there is nothing remotely approaching a plot... the film simply makes no sense. At the same time, the film captures New York City in the late 70s, and serves as an indispensable archive of what is arguably the most important artistic movement of 20th century. Richard Hell has undeniable charisma, and I'd happily watch the film once or twice a week for the rest of my life just to see/hear the amazing performances of Hell and his band, The Voidoids, scattered throughout. All of these performances, and several other scenes, were shot in and around CBGB in early 1978, which is enough of a reason to celebrate [MVD's](#) decision to reissue the film on DVD and to motivate everyone with even a remote interest in music to own it. The female lead is an actress named Carole Bouquet, who is not a household name here in the USA, but has become a massive star in her native France over the past few decades. Here, she is equally captivating because of her ethereal beauty and by the bizarrely vacant manner in which she delivers her lines and interacts with her co-stars. Andy Warhol is utilized as a selling point for the DVD – as he was for the initial cinematic release – and his 3 minutes or so of screen time are fascinating, but it is worth noting that his is truly a guest appearance, and it's hard not to wonder if he was even aware that he was being filmed at the time. The DVD features a fantastic brand-new interview with Richard Hell, and his overview of the film and the circumstances of the entire event (from inception to release) – delivered, as they are, with that wonderful thing called hindsight – make for a short film (30 minutes or so) that is an indispensable companion to the actual feature. In short, Blank Generation is not to be missed. **The Impaler**



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more....

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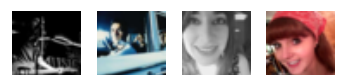
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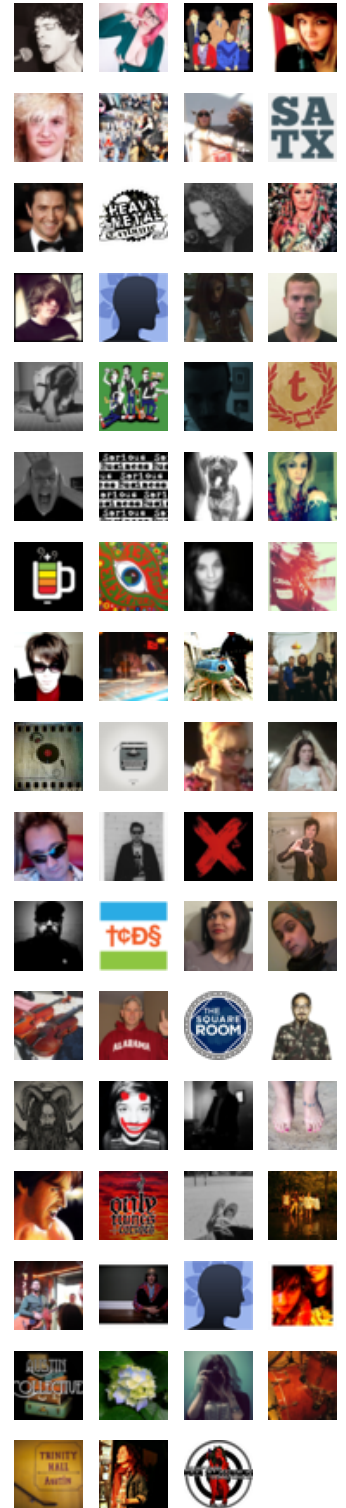
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