

M-80 Concert,' The Monochrome Set (Wienerworld/MVDvisual, 2 stars)

This June 4 DVD comes from the late 1970s, which was a dire time for new music. Punk rock's first wave had petered out, cooler New Wave bands had yet to emerge and disco was still occupying a large part of radio station playlists. The Monochrome Set were able to get a contract with England's Rough Trade record label. Then they ventured to the U.S.A. as part of a two-day multi-band event called "Marathon '80: A New-No-Wave Festival."

The Monochrome Set is fronted by guitarist/vocalist Bid, who sings his sometimes witty lyrics in a monotone over squiggly new wave guitars, chugging bass and fairly fast drums. If someone amongst my readers once attended this festival or had some of the Monochrome Set's records, they might want this program. I can't recommend it for others.

- Ricky Flake