

*Glenn O'Brien's TV Party – The Sublimely Intolerable Show* DVD, *Glenn O'Brien's TV Party – the everything for sale show* DVD (Brinkfilm) The magic of this legendary 1979 New York cable access mess is summarized in the first five minutes when the live cablecast has no functioning sound and host O'Brien is trying to figure stuff out, and guests Klaus Nomi and shutterbug Kate Simon are just sitting there looking beautiful. This black and white show, with terrible camerawork, bad angles, and complete irreverence (a semi-serious discussion of Rastafarianism is used as an excuse to smoke ganja on live TV) is truly a work of art. The only professional camera work I would have liked would have been to see the crowd reaction when Nomi (introduced as one of the best pastry chefs in the city) starts singing a perfect aria in his otherworldly opera voice. Unfortunately, this is not the episode where Nomi makes lemon tarts. Also visiting are Chris Stein and Debbie Harry (looking too pretty to believe) who take non-functioning phone calls and smoke supposedly expensive pot. O'Brien also explains his theory about why Johnny Carson would be the greatest president of all time. Also released is an episode from the final season, 1982, shot on vibrating 1982 color video. This episode opens with only 2 minutes of technical difficulties. More of a goof than the 1979 episode, Glenn looks slightly disheveled, and there is less a sense of excitement in the studio and audience. That said, there's some great stuff, including an extensive sing-rap introduction to all the cast and crew. The highlight here is Charles Rocket, who had been fired for saying "fuck" on *Saturday Night Live* playing amplified accordion and there's a weird German performer, as well. Nothing of Nomi caliber on this episode, but it is still a glorious slice of chaos.