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(2005/Korea/Tartan/DTS)

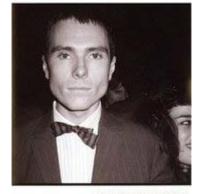
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Glenn O'Brien's TV Party – Premiere Episode (12/18/78)

Picture: C Sound: C+ Extras: C

Episode: C+

Though it is very awkward and has some dull moments, the premiere episode of the cable access show **TV Party** with Glenn O'Brien reminds us of a time when TV had more possibilities. Shot and presented on fuzzy black and white videotape because that was all they had, the writer for Andy Warhol's *Interview Magazine* (in a column called *Beat*) was spotted on another show



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TV PARTY

and given his own. Blondie co-founder Chris Stein calls in on the first show and supposedly became a later co-host. Fab Five Freddie shows up before his "blinking glasses" days and Warhol painting assistant Walter Steding was there from day one.

The show also featured anyone else who was around, in the best tradition of Punk and New Wave, including a wacky call in segment. Funny moments surface all over the place, including a supposed plot about then President Jimmy Carter trying to kill New Wave music! The show runs about an hour and has no commercial breaks, but considering this is DVD, they could have had two more shows here. Nevertheless, it is very interesting and should be seen by all Punk and New Wave fans, as well as those curious about early analog TV production.

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- > R-Point: The Point Of No Return (2004/Korea/DTS)

The 1.33 X 1 image was shot on an old reel-to-reel black and white machine the cable station was lucky to barely be able to afford. This is a muddy 240 lines of NTSC analog definition at best and is lucky it even looks this good. It even looks a tad older than 1978, but more video like this keeps surfacing on DVD. The Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono is a little better, but shows its limits in the few music moments on the show. Extras include Steding's composition *Skylab*, one with John Lurie, one with Kate Simon & Mick Jones, one with David Walter McDermott and one with Glenn discussing "sub-realism". I would now like to see the rest of the shows, if they survived.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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