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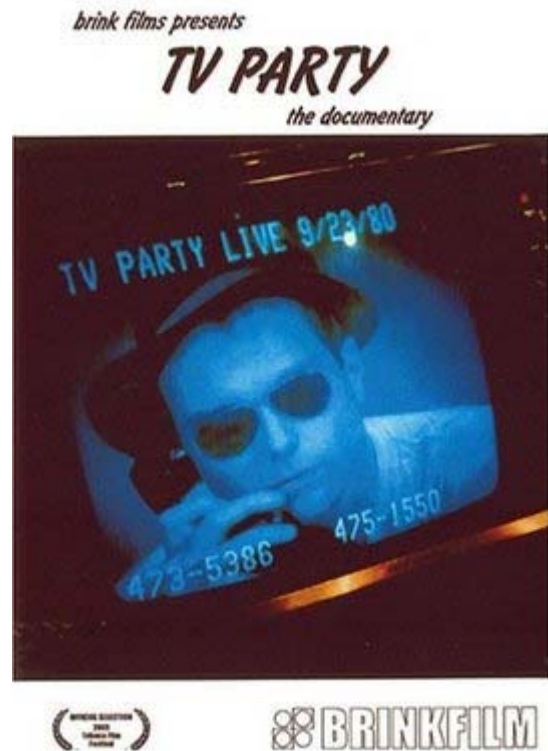
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TV Party – The Documentary

Picture: C+ Sound: C+
Extras: C+ Documentary: B

We have looked at a few episodes of the underground, New York cable-access series **TV Party** before, but they were nothing as compared to the final output of the show and **TV Party – The Documentary** that the show captured far more important moments of its time and the music scene in particular than we expected. Glenn O'Brien was the host and is here to contribute with many of the participants and major guests (like Debbie Harry) for this intriguing 90 minutes.



Pressing all the political buttons possible, getting calls from the most ignorant and homophobic, acting goofy and influencing David Letterman by his own admission, the show was really the next logical step after the original **Saturday Night Live** in where you could go with a talk/skit show, though they did get distracted. Guest who were either scheduled or dropped by includes Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Fab Five Freddie, Nile Rodgers, George Clinton, The B-52s, David Bowie, Robert Fripp, Chris Stein and Debbie Harry. There are also many, many real original Punk bands from the era are here in a priceless archive seen in many of the clips.

Most important is the excellent way in which the program captures the spirit of what bold TV can be; something so sadly lacking in the medium today, especially when things should have become more interesting with the intro of HD when HD seems to be making the medium stillborn.

The 1.33 X 1 image from the show is black and white NTSC videotape, though newer footage is color, namely the interviews. However, there is something interesting and fun about that older tape that marks a great period of experimentation we will never see again. The Dolby Digital 2.0 sound is mono for the most part, though the interviews are simple stereo at best. Extras include a really good 16-page booklet, stills and a trailer for the program.

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