

reviews by Darren Ressler



●●●●●

We Jam Econo: The Story of the Minutemen (Plexi-Film)

This two-DVD set tells the story of three kids from Pedro, California who eschewed the pitfalls of punk rock and formed a band that made a permanent mark on the '80s post-hardcore scene. Through interviews with guitarist D. Boon, bassist Mike Watt and drummer George Hurley (as well as dozens of musicians including Flea, John Doe, Ian MacKaye, and Thurston Moore), the directors take us from the band's formation as kids to becoming one of the most musically challenging bands of their time. The toughest part is the exploration of the untimely death of D. Boon, who was killed in 1985 in a car accident. Twenty years on, The Minutemen's incendiary post-everything musical ideas still ring loudly, and that's a testament to the integrity they staked their claim on.



●●

Reggae Showdown: Shabba at Showdown (Armado)

Shabba Ranks once declared in an interview that he was a galaxy, not a star. Humble, he isn't. This 1990 concert is thoroughly misleading because you have to sit through mediocre sets from Papa San, Professor Nuts, Ninja Man, and others. Plus, every five minutes, the camera turns to the same gyrating women dancing by the front of the stage—it's absolutely infuriating. When we finally get to see the gravelly-voiced dancehall crooner, he only sings a few songs, and it looks like he's on stage to collect a check. His backing band is competent, but the excitement just isn't there. Foiled by false advertising again!



●●●●

God Save the Queen: A Punk Rock Anthology (MVD)

This 20-track DVD includes live and studio performance clips from some terrific old school punk bands. Johnny Thunders' rousing rendition of "Born To Lose" is topped off by an eerie English interview, where Thunders speaks in short sentences and describes his post drug-addicted life in Paris. An adorably young Billy Idol appears in an interview prior to Generation X's lip-synched performance of "Your Generation," and that's a treat. Clips from Buzzcocks, The Exploited and Sham 69 are equally enjoyable, though the DVD's highlight is Iggy & The Stooges riveting performance of "I Wanna Be Your Dog" filmed in Detroit, no less.



●●●●

Del the Funky Homosapien: The 11th Hour (Hieró Imperium)

Director Grant Jones does a solid job documenting the life of West Coast rapper Del the Funky Homosapien. Known for his smash hit "Mistabobdabalina," an appearance on Gorillaz's "Clint Eastwood," and for being Ice Cube's cousin, *The 11th Hour* begins as a well-shot concert performance, then smartly intersperses cartoon panels to tell Del's story. After Del rocks the crowd with "Ahonetwo, Ahonetwo" and "Fake As Fuck," the film takes the direction of most MTV documentaries and captures the rapper shopping for food and driving in his car. When Del gets comfortable in his cluttered home studio, he goes deep and discusses his greatest anxieties—namely, he fears his lack of musical theory will prevent him from progressing as a musician—and the personal problems he's trying to overcome (Del shows pictures of his front door, which his ex tried to break down with a butcher's knife). All in all, Del demonstrates that he still has sharp rhyming skills and, above all, is one honest motherfucker.