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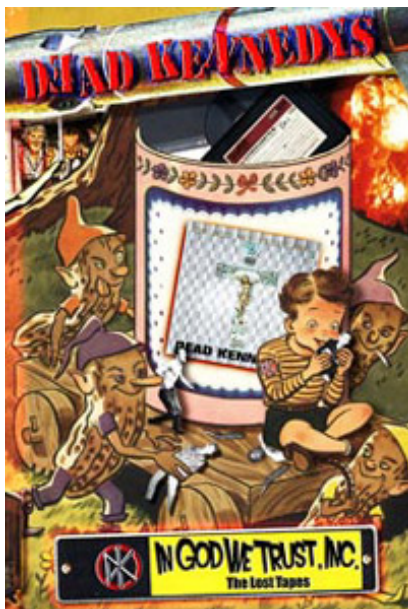
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SEARCH FILM/DVDs

> DEAD KENNEDYS - IN GOD WE TRUST INC. - DVD

darren susin | 02.09.2005



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Ahhhh Jello. Jello Jello Jello. Go ahead, berate us in public for being 18 months late with this review, go ahead. Tell us how we've been too busy sucking corporate tits to get our shit together and write this review. Tell us how it's our lack of individualism that has made us "sell-out to big business." No doubt, all the shit that Jello Biafra talks about these days is so dull and boring that the concept of fighting against "the man" is a complete cliché.

However, what immediately changes this entire perspective (at least temporarily) is the fact that this footage is 25 years old and back in the early 1980s, calling your president a complete fuck-up wasn't as common as it is today. Sure, there was revolt and whatnot, but revolutions and the concepts behind them are lost today, cloaked in differing ideologies, contrasting ideas on how to proceed, and a media ready to film it all and edit the real meaning right off the screen.

What the Dead Kennedys were doing back in the 80s was nothing short of pinko genius. Right down to their name, which caused quite a rousing back in the day when the murder of JFK was not even 2 decades old, the Dead Kennedys were in your face with all the gusto and flare of Iggy Pop and Johnny Rotten and all those other British invasion bands that truly didn't give a shit. I'm not talking "we're punk and we don't give a shit", I'm talking these guys truly gave 2 fucks about you, your mother, and your girlfriend.

Any DK fan knows the story of the recording of In God We Trust; if not, don't worry. A pudgy guy wearing overalls tells the story at the start of the DVD. Sitting on some old stage with a candle beside him, he speaks in length about the recording session, the subsequent fraying of the tape, and the re-recording of the entire album.

For die-hard fans (those who bid on any and all Dead Kennedys items on ebay), the "lost footage" will be like watching the resurrection of Christ. The footage is raw, its old, and believe it or not, its hilarious. Klaus is a complete clown when the cameras rolling, making faces, screaming with all the facial contortions of a birthing seal, and acting like a complete, fuck-you attitude punk rocker. Jello is obviously anxious to get the recording done and East Bay Ray is chilled as ever. Peligro hits the shit right out of the drums and lord knows where the hell he gets all the energy from. The studio footage could bore non-DK fans, but for those who bought "In

God We Trust" in their early teenage years and grew up listening to it while yelling Nazi Punks Fuck Off!! To each and every person they saw, well then the concept of boring would never enter this person's head.

What makes this DVD truly great though is the live footage. Handheld cameras dominate the footage, but none of the emotion is lost with the quality. Biafra looks as pissed as if he had the most professional recording device filming him. The crowds are the rowdy teenage fuckers that would later go on to slam their heads away to the 80s glam rockers that made music bow its head in shame. This DVD won't create the cult following Biafra may want in order to storm the Pentagon with, but for those who love the Dead Kennedys and will forever love the Dead Kennedys (regardless how many live albums they put out in the future), this DVD is an absolute must have.

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