

Dead Kennedys *In God We Trust, Inc.* *The Lost Tapes*

(Decay Music / Music Video Distributors)

Another great result of the Geoffrey Lyall et al. / Eric Boucher lawsuit!

Apparently, back in 1981 **Dead Kennedys** (or "The DKs," as the pompous on-disc commentator likes to call them) went into a studio to record a hardcore EP called *In God We Trust, Inc.* But wait! There's more! Somebody invited in a guy with a video camera. Hold the television! More! The audio tapes of the session turned out to be faulty, forcing the Dead Kennedys to go back into the studio and re-record the EP a few months later. So all of this material was lost forever, and we can only imagine what it might have sounded like. Good night everybody! Sleep well and don't eat any Band-aids!

What the hell?! There's even MORE!? This DVD features video and audio of those very same ORIGINAL sessions, unheard until this very day! (5:25, August 5th, 1962)! Not only that, but the DVD people folks went through years of old live footage to uncover uproarious footage of every single track. That's the setup -- you could have found out all that information just by reading the



The Dead Kennedys.

box. But now's your opportunity to hear it from me, a 14-years-and-counting Dead Kennedys fan: What is the reality? Could this DVD possibly live up to its promise? In a word: !

The filmmakers pulled only the most entertaining footage from what was likely hours of boring takes of the same material. You get to see the band in the studio, chit-chatting, goofing around and messing up their parts. D.H. has just joined the band and has short normal black person hair instead of those religious dreadlocks he later grew to imitate the Bad Brains. Jello takes his shirt off early on, inviting fans to look at his enjoyable bare chest of anarchy. And it's just cool to finally get a behind-the-scenes look at this great punk band when they were young and hungry, long before the bloated

overblown progressive rock of *Bedtime For Democracy*.

But wait! I locked my tie in your car door! The live material might be even better. Whoever put this thing together TOTALLY had the meticulous fan in mind. So instead of generic concert footage, we get things like (a) an early version of "Kepone Factory," back when it was called "Kepone Kids" and had a white drummer, (b) an uproarious version of "Moral Majority" from late in the band's career, featuring Jello dressed up as a Shriner with glasses, suit and hat, (c) an early version of "We've Got A Bigger Problem Now" set to the high-speed music of "California Über Alles" (rather than lounged up like the EP version), (d) "Dog Bite" prefaced by Jello's mocking comment, "If you came here tonight for deep political commentary, this song's for you," and (e) a classic run-through of "Religious Vomit" in which Jello's mic goes dead for about ten seconds and two verses are lost to all eternity (including an eclipse)!

Basically, *In Knobs We Trust, Incubator: The Lost Tapes* is a gotta-buy for any Dead Kennedys fan. Even if you have to STEAL it, make sure to go back to the store later to pay for it. Because without rules, what kind of society are we? A bad society indeed. This is the true message of the Dead Kennedys.

ADOLESCENTS (cont'd)

Reality" and "Brats In Battalions," a third "Brats" track (goofy throwaway "Do The Freddy") and possibly most excitingly of all ---- FIVE NEW SONGS! Five CATCHY new songs that, according to the DVD commentary track, will appear on an upcoming Adolescents studio album entitled "O.C. Confidential." But let's discuss the DVD itself.

It's great. It's a great, great, great DVD for one key reason -- the creators of the disc included not only this live show from 2003, but a scratchy black-and-white video tape of the ORIGINAL Adolescents playing a live show in 1982! Being a glutton for rewardery, I began my DVD adventure with the early video. There they were -- bushy-haired Rikk Agnew doing arrogant cock rock moves like a young Joe Perry, Tony looking like a skinny drugged-up retard who can't keep his body from shaking up and down, Steve being a large young man, Frank staying in one spot in the back with his cool "drooping down into my eye" skater hairstyle and

Casey handling all the stage patter from behind the drums (including a sarcastic dedication to John Belushi, who apparently had died this very same day). So I watched, I enjoyed, I thought, "Wow! They really WERE adolescents! Look at those skinny little kids (and Steve) playing that great punk rock music!" Then it was time to watch the 2003 show.

First things first, the band has become a bunch of lardasses. It's not surprising that Steve got a little bigger; he at least looks much cleaner and more mature than he used to. But, as Frank points out several times during the commentary, Tony quite literally looks pregnant -- and Rikk Agnew seems to have eaten an entire elephant at some point during the previous two decades. He has become a huge, sweaty, fat PIG of a kickass guitar god rocker! The whole thing would have made me feel really horrible about the perils of age if not for the svelte form of Frank Agnew in the background with his spikey bleached young person hairstyle and polka-diamond-dotted shirt.

Casey Royer has been replaced, for reasons unknown to me.

So that's all I have to say. Tony's voice is no longer charmingly stuffed-nose at all, but then it had sort of already become a gravelly hard rock shout even by the time of "Brats In Battalions." The songs are still awesome. Awesome! I can't wait to hear the new CD, though I wouldn't be surprised if it never comes out.

U.K. Subs

Punk Can Take It

(Music Video Distributors)

Back in 1979, filmmaker Julien Temple hit a home run out of the ballpark of society with this tiny, hilarious "wartime documentary" of the punk rock movement, driven by onstage footage of the young **U.K. Subs**.

Even youngsters unfamiliar with catchy U.K. Subs punker classics like "Stranglehold," "C.I.D." and "Live In A Car" will laugh their eyeballs silly at the between-song skits tracing the history of the punk war: Temple hits a home run out of the ballpark of humor with scenes ranging from (1) a public service announcement explaining how to convert your school uniform into a punk uniform to (2) various battle footage showing spit as the punk movement's prime weapon to (1) an uproarious scene of colored-hair ruffians destroying a statue of the traitor Johnny Rotten. Even my wife was laughing, and she doesn't have a mouth! So if you're looking to hit a home run out of the ballpark of your DVD player, swing hard because "Punk Can Take It!"

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