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DVD REVIEW

DEAD BOYS LIVE! AT CBGB 1977

by Mick Head

This legendary New York City (by way of Columbus, OH) band represents everything punk rock was, is and should always be – loud, rude, violent, dirty and offensive. All of this is portrayed within the music and the stage show on what is probably the only video documentation in the Dead Boy's brief existence. A nihilistic, "don't give a shit" type of performance, going for the throat until the destructive end. The band plays the show as if it were the last.

From the blazing opening classic – and much covered – "Sonic Reducer" to the explosive closer



Dead Boys - Live! At CBGB 1977
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“Search And Destroy,” the Dead Boys perform a raucous, beer and snot soaked, aggressive set list. Ten timeless cuts that sound just as raw and primal now as they did back then.

The stage presence of the band is also as important as the music being played, as the band never stops moving. Vocalist Stiv Bators and guitarist Cheetah Chrome, in particular, seem to be ready to explode at any moment. As Bators jumps around and simultaneously rolls all over the stage, Chrome is all over his space rocking out. The entire band is having loads of fun and so is the crowd, many singing along with every lyric.

For the uneducated, the Dead Boys' music is similar to that of The New York Dolls, MC5 and Iggy & The Stooges, although much more belligerent and vile. This is mainly from Bator's vocal delivery, which is the musical equivalent of a giant middle finger in your face. Also of note is Cheetah Chrome's guitar style; a cross between Keith Richards and Johnny Ramone. He is not afraid to play solos, something almost unheard of in the punk rock world.

The actual concert on the DVD is only 45 minutes. Short and sweet, the way it should be, complete with the destruction of the drum kit at the end of the set. Bonuses include a cool band interview conducted just after the gig, a recent interview with Cheetah Chrome and a bizarre two song performance from the Steel Tips, who opened the show.

- **OMG**

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