

# Rock is Life

...embrace Life

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## DEAD BOYS

Live at CBGB's 1977 DVD  
 Music Video Distributors 2004  
[www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com)

Stiv Bators (vocals)  
 Cheetah Chrome (guitar)  
 Jimmy Zero (guitar)  
 Jeff Magnum (bass)  
 Johnny Blitz (drums)

### What's the 4-1-1?

Influential, snotty punk rockers the Dead Boys are highlighted in a 1977 performance from the legendary CBGB'S in New York. This rare show footage has been restored and mixed in 5.1 sound.

### Genre

Punk rock / hardcore

### The Good

*Live at CBGB'S 1977*

If you want proof that the Dead Boys are snotty punk rockers look no further than their performance of the intense raucous that is "All This and More". Over-the-top frontman Stiv Bators is practically on fire as he delivers his vocals. Not only that, he takes bologna that's attached to his shirt, wipes his runny nose with it, and then eats it. It doesn't get more punk than that. Stiv's on stage antics make add to the raw energy that the rest of the band puts out. "Not Anymore" is a ballad of sorts that climaxes with an onslaught of power chord riffing, and Stiv pouring beer down his pants. Pure genius. Guitarist Cheetah Chrome adds tuneful bluesy riffs to Jimmy Zeros crushing punk riffs. What makes this particular DVD notable is the fact that nothing was edited or dubbed. You get all of the unintentional feedback, and you get footage of when the lighting system malfunctions. "Ain't Nothin' to Do"



is an angry, teeth clenching anthem that works the crowd into a frenzy. Stiv caps it all off by convulsing on the floor as the rest of the group tears it up. Chugga-chugga riffing and an infectious riff dominate "High Tension Wire". The Dead Boys end things on a high, energetic note with the sonic riffing of "Search and Destroy".

#### *Extras*

There's an interview with the band that appears to have taken place before the show. You'll find out how they guys met when Stiv was moving in on one Cheetah's girls at the time, and how the band thinks how their destructiveness is misunderstood, among other things. The 1977 interview contrasts well with a current interview conducted with Cheetah Chrome. He talks about how back then his life was sleep, drugs, booze, girls, and music. He's looking a lot like "Stone Cold" Steve Austin these days. He goes a little into how the punk scene was back then, how the band's legacy lives on, and why there won't be a Dead Boys reunion (due to the passing of Stiv Bators in 1990). There's a throw away interview with their manger, that will most likely put you to sleep. He lacks any personality. An original seventies promo for the group is included, as well as a brief commentary by the director. There's a promotional clip for a band called the Steel Tips which I believe was the opening act for this performance. The band leader is a crazed lunatic, drenched in blood, that lights off a pack of firecrackers he has tucked in his t-shirt.

#### **The Bad**

I didn't like the way the corners of the picture were rounded off in black. It's like looking through a keyhole. The director threw in some really cheesy still motion and color changing shots that weren't really necessary.

#### **The Verdict**

The sound and picture are not as spectacular as today's live DVDs, but it is indicative of the technology of the time. As far as the performance goes, you don't know what punk rock is until you've experienced the Dead Boys.

#### **Did You Know?**

This performance was originally recorded for an article that was to appear on the news program *60 Minutes*.

**Rating:**  out of 5

--George Dionne