



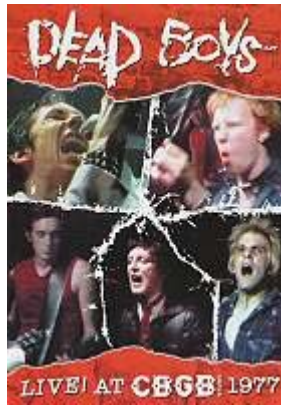
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TV Party - D



DEAD BOYS - Live At CBGB 1977 {MVD} To me, the DEAD BOYS is the definitive example of Punk Rock - certainly from that '77 era. The band's sound, look, attitude all exude the ultimate 'fuck you'. The band still represents danger, excitement and that whole 'to hell with tomorrow let's live for today' ethos. Not only did the DEAD BOYS have all that, the band could also play like few of their contemporaries and rock without parallel. You understand what I am trying to convey? The DEAD BOYS was the real deal. End of story.

This DVD captures an incendiary 10-song set recorded at CBGBs in 1977. It's recorded on a multi-camera set up which doesn't focus purely on Stiv and Cheetah, but documents the whole band as it performs. Kicking off with the band's anthem, 'Sonic Reducer', from there it's one wild ride. The set is culled mainly from the band's classic debut album, 'Young, Loud and Snotty' with the exception of

'Revenge', 'Flame Thrower Love' and the ubiquitous cover of IGGY AND THE STOOGES' classic, 'Search & Destroy'. The actual performance is intense, taugth and stunningly muscular increasing in intensity as the band progresses to the point where 'What Love Is' becomes an unstoppable slab of noxious, totally focused Punk that finishes with an abrupt, precise crunch that hits like a speeding juggernaut.

Visually, it's very much Stiv and Cheetah's stage - even colliding and having a bout of pushing and shoving towards the end. Most astounding maybe is the performance of Johnny Blitz. His drumming is powerful, visual and echoes the great Keith Moon - had Keith been a NY Punk in '77! Stiv's performance is explosive and electric as he contorts his face and body, eats chewing gum from the stage floor, eats his own snot and physically throws that skeletal frame around with a fury and sense of danger that Johnny Rotten could but dream of.

While this all-too-rare high quality footage is virtually priceless, the extras make for an essential document of the band and era. You get interviews with the band from '77, all of whom prove to be really quite articulate - although Cheetah goes some way in making an argument against that statement. Stiv is quite subdued when compared with his reputation, while Blitz sounds like an Italian-American hood and Jimmy Zero is animated and insightful. Then there is a recent interview with Hilly Kristal of CBGBs about his memories of the band and finally a recent interview with Cheetah Chrome which proves to be the highlight of the post-'77 band interviews. He recalls, from the confines of what appears to be CBGBs while drinking Guinness, what life was like as a DEAD BOY. His conversation is laced with notable quotes, but the best of the bunch is his only regret: that the DEAD BOYS didn't hang around long enough to make sure Limp Bizcuit didn't exist!! There doesn't seem to be any air of egotism about him, and his proclamation about the DEAD BOYS never reuniting as 'Stiv was like a brother' is very pleasing to hear.

The additional extras are interesting but throw away; a Johnny Blitz-cam version of 'All This And More'; a '77 promo clip and, finally, some footage of the terrible STEEL TIPS notable only for the hilarious scene of a guy with about 24 firecrackers going off - all of which are attached to his torso.

The packaging is neat with director's comments and a small biog. Put that together with the material on the disc and you are looking at one of the finest visual documents of the DEAD BOYS imaginable. Not only essential viewing for DEAD BOYS adicts like myself, but it mandatory viewing for anyone who claims affiliation with, or affection for, Punk Rock.

DEK - Wattatata {Something Weird} I think these fellas have stuff releaed on Finger Records, and quite an oddity the band is. The lead track on this DVD-R is 'Wattatata' that comes on like B-52s meets AGENT ORANGE playing WEEZER! There's a heap of witty sexual innuendoes in the lyrics, lots of scantily clad chicks and... Well... It's pretty throwaway stuff to be honest. The other two tracks come on like ANGRY SAMOANS meets early REDD KROSS - much better!! It's gnarly, snotty youth-core and really hits the spot. There's a profusion of TSOL T-shirts too - no bad thing. The band look real young too - let's hope they ditch the kitsch niceness and head 'Back To Samoa' rather than to the rock lobster.

D.R.I. - Live At CBGB'S 1984 {Beer City} My god - what a whopper! This 80-track plus (yep,

over EIGHTY tracks!) DVD is the visual accompaniment to the recently released live disc on Beer City. The core of the disc is obviously the show mentioned in the title. It's an intimate affair, filmed on just one camera allowing the band to give it as it was: no thrills, no gimmicks, no tricks - just 100% pure thrash Punk the like of which had never been heard before. But that's just the selling point. For fans and obsessives, the rest of the DVD is essential. You get a sparsely attended show from the same era at Portsmouth, New Hampshire that features way over 40-songs filmed in what appears to be the village town hall and includes all the classics. Sure, the sound (recorded on a cine-camera and, I'm guessing, without any post-filming mixing) is poor but the footage is riveting. This was long before Punk became another accessible fashion and DRI are seen slugging it out for about 12 Punks going ape at the front and several more bemused fans loitering around the edge of the venue. It's a great document of what bands used to face and what they had to endure - there was no ready-made market, no national PR - this was just real, determined Punk Rock from a band that broke barriers and divisions. Essential stuff. It's kinda humorous too as, at the NH show, there's a guy in the audience who starts to slowly thrash as opener, 'I Don't Need Society', kicks in with its slow intro. When the band kick into the fast thrash core of the song, he stands bemused, unsure of what he's hearing; then he grasps it and steps up his own personal thrashing!! Classic! Also included is a promo video of professional skater, Kristian Svitak who was sponsored by the band. Not stunning viewing when compared with the live action, but a neat way to fill out the disc and add a little variety. Blazing stuff ... All together now ... WHO AM I? D R I!

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