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## DVD REVIEW: Strangers - Live 1978 in San Francisco

Posted by [Temple Stark](#) on June 01, 2005 04:00 AM (See [all posts by Temple Stark](#))

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### [Strangers - Live 1978 in San Francisco](#)

DVD from [Music Video Distribu](#)  
Release date: 31 May, 2005

(Also [Order here \\$14.95](#))

**BY TEMPLE A. STARK, Casa Grande, Arizona**

*Whatever happened to all the heroes?  
All the Shakespeares?  
They watched their Rome burn  
Whatever happened to the heroes?  
Whatever happened to the heroes?*

*No more heroes any more,  
No more heroes any more."*

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So Sexy

Released yesterday, May 31, this DVD is a 30-minute sonic Marshall-fueled feedback blast. The sound is anything but clear and pure for [The Stranglers](#), caught in San Francisco in 1978 on their first US tour.

Like a low-tech bootleg, asshole.

If you're only thinking sound quality when buying a music DVD (perfectly understandable) then this is not at all for you. Neither, probably are all the other videos, released by the ahead-of-its-time Target Video from the late-70s, early 80s; bands such as The Cramps, The Screamers, The The (OK, not The The), Iggy Pop, and DEVO.

See, it's funny to remember that, especially before 1980, music videos were by far an afterthought (Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" was one of the first) and when it came to some of the Punk and New Wave bands they were an absent thought.

Enter Joe Dees and his merry band of Target Video artisans. They were there to document a big chunk of time and music that otherwise would have been ignored. (More on that in a second).

*"This is Los Angeles isn't it? There are so many posers in the audience I figured it must be the center of the music business."*

*"You're so laid back ... shut up ... You guys are so laid back you'll let KSAN, your best radio station take on a fucking playlist. You lot are*

On [Region 1 DVD Releases For 7th June 2005](#) by visualsimplicity  
*I thought Be Cool was entertaining, but I guess I'...*  
[\[more\]](#)

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*Hey Hey, well, I didn't really predict everything ...*  
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*p, that would only make sense if people didn't kno...*  
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*No, certainly you didn't offend me: after all, I a...*  
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*I'll admit I'm no GOP insider, so this p.o.v. is i...*  
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On [CD Review: Stand Alone Complex O.S.T. + by Yoko Kanno](#) by Chris Beaumont  
*I may have to check this out, I like the show and ...*  
[\[more\]](#)

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*Brian must not have read the official comment poli...*  
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*Fascinating. We are getting closer to solving that...*  
[\[more\]](#)

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*I loved Accidental Tourist but*



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pathetic."

Ah, it probably wouldn't seem right today (depended on the band) but there's nothing like some good-natured insults and real contempt for your fans barked from the stage.

The tracklist selection for the tour is short, but it's enough for a good solid dose of one of the UK originals. It gives me renewed and greater contempt for Green Day who are just happy-tosser, ex-lax produced pretenders. Visualize the spit stream.

Rivaling the Ramones for morose exuberance are "Hanging Around" and "Dead Ringer," the latter with keyboardist Dave Greenfield's hair flying away from his hand in the back, due to a fan and not static electricity, I would assume. "Dead Ringer" also offers video "effects" - what amount to an incomplete fractal overlay.

Everything sounds amped up to 11 compared to how the songs were first recorded on vinyl, (where "Hanging Around" sounds almost like an AOR / Doors hybrid).

It is nice to hear full and dead-on sincerity from the stage. The low-tech video here completely sells the point that these guys were the real deal. Still, it is hard to believe that [these sinewy, mop-hairs](#), later (and not much later, 1981) created the wonderful, textured Golden Brown (later featured in that Guy Ritchie "Snatch " film.) from the *La Folie* album.

The Stranglers also gamely covered

found the movie a b... [\[more\]](#)

On [The Downing Street Memo](#) by George P. Wood  
*Thanks for the info, Dave! I'll ignore Patriot's p...* [\[more\]](#)

On [For the Love of Books](#) by swingingpuss  
*Sure Shark, puss sounds just fine. It is funny...* [\[more\]](#)

On [T-Shirt Hell Lite](#) by Moy  
*They're baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack* [\[more\]](#)

On [A Current Affair`s BIG Adventure - "Tracking Manitoba's Bigfoot"](#) by son of goodstory  
*SHARNESS THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPLY. HOW WAS T...* [\[more\]](#)

On [MoveOn Watch: Corruption Only Matters When It's a Republican](#) by John Bambenek  
*Lol@Joe Thanks, Maurice.* [\[more\]](#)

On [Dancing With the Stars - Week 2](#) by Steve  
*Okay - this was week 2 for me - and I am married t...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Extraordinary Machine](#) by No Milk  
*yeah, "Waltz" reminded me of a western saloon with...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Bob's Poor Relatives](#) by Nancy  
*Well, it's nice to know that the USPS aren't the o...* [\[more\]](#)

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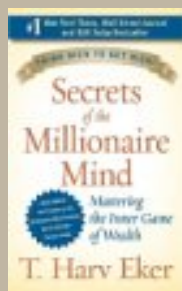
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a version of the Burt Bacharach/Hal David composition, "Walk On By."

"Peaches" ("Walking on the beaches looking at the peaches" - which was banned by the BBC) and "No More Heroes" are also two other classics, along with the more recent "96 Tears" (First performed by Question Mark and the Mysterians in 1966).

The Stranglers are still around - sans lead singer Hugh who left in 1990 - still releasing records. 2004's *Norfolk Coast* is the latest.

The 1977 band was: Hugh Cornwell, Guitars & lead vocals, Jean Jaques Burnel: , Bass & vocals. Dave Greenfield: Keyboard & Vocals and Jet Black (Brian Duffy): Drums and other percussive noises.

The tracks, in order:  
-Burning Up Time -Dagenham Dave  
-Bring on the Nubiles -Dead Ringer (from 1977's No More Heroes")

-Hanging Around -London Lady - (Get a) Grip (On Yourself) (from 1977's debut, Rattus Norvegicus)

Available in Stereo and Dolby 5.1.

## Target Video

"There are hundreds of stories and shows from the Target scene. You are about to watch one." Target Video, 678 S. Van Ness Avenue, SF, CA 94110. Catalog \$2.

So goes the pitch for Target Video, a Joe Dees upstart that eventually melded into a gig spot, hang out and center of gravity for many.

hours (updated 11:20)

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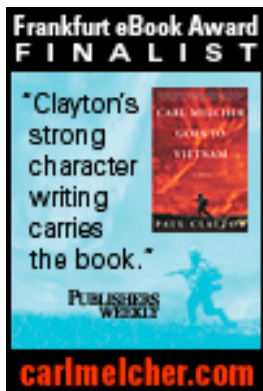
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Included here on the DVD are the advertisement clips that Target Video shopped around to sell their work. It's an historic slice of life in itself, complete with a close-up of Jello Biafra saying good things about Target.

It's fun to think of what else was going on in the music scene at the time, 1981-1983, and how bands like Flipper, Tuxedo Moon, The Mutants, The Ramones, The Screamers, Talking Heads, Ultrashen, X, Bauhaus, Bush Tetras, Weirdos, DOA, Public Image Ltd., No Alternative, Rank And File, (the first non- caucasian of the bunch that I saw), Plugz, DEVO (those costumes pretty much stood out form the rest of the rabble), Gun Club, Low Rider, The Cramps, Mark Pauline, Lewd, Throbbing Gristle, Theatre of Hate .... just had no chance to sell out at the time, though I'm sure many tried.

All low-tech, raw; people, not all greatly talented, fabulously underdressed, who enjoyed playing.

Music for the fuck of it.

[Temple Stark.com is my personal site](#)

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Posted by [Temple Stark](#) on June 01, 2005  
04:00 AM (See [all posts by Temple Stark](#))  
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**Comment on this post and/or leave a message for the author here.**

Comment 1 posted by [HW Saxton](#) on June 1, 2005 01:41 PM:

The Strangler's were very misunderstood back in the early days. They were blown off by the faster/louder crowd as slow & arty. They were blown off by "New Wave" types as too dark and punk. They weren't mainstream enough for radio but were too good at their instruments & songwriting to considered "True" punk by others. The same thing happened to "The

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Damned" to a lesser degree as well. As is usually the case, their music holds up well because of the self same reasons that held them from wider success and recognition in the first place: Musicianship and a greater degree of craftsmanship put into their recordings. Oh well, glad to see someone is still enjoying these guys. And just for the record: J.J Burnel is one of the best bass players in Rock N Roll ever. The guy is just f\*\*king phenomenal. He's all over the place and really drives the band IMO. My fave Strangers stuff is the "Men In Black" album, "Rattus... is close behind.

Also fun is their covers EP done under the name of "Celia & The Mutations".

Great review man.

Comment 2 posted by [Temple Stark](#) on June 1, 2005 02:02 PM:

Yeah - what he said.

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