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The Stranglers: Live '78, SF

THE STRANGLERS: LIVE '78, SF

Directed by Jon Rees

(Target/[MVD](#))

The Stranglers: Live '78, SF presents a bit of a quandary. On the one hand, this is some of the only extant video of one of the late 70s punk era's most popular bands, giving a pretty vicious performance some of their greatest hits ("London Lady," "Dagenham Dave," "Bring on the Nubiles"). On the other hand, both audio and video quality are pretty poor, due to the original source tape being a VHS; you can see and hear what's going on, but only just. Also, it's only about 20 minutes long, and the performance of "Get a Grip On Yourself," probably the British group's best-known song, comes over the credits, with no accompanying video. On basis of the technical quality alone, the discerning buyer may question this DVD's worth. But **The Stranglers: Live '78, SF** isn't for the generalist; it's for the fanatic, and Stranglers diehards will happily add this to their libraries.

The disk also includes a trailer for Target Video's other titles produced during its early '80s heyday. The video and audio quality varies widely, and is never what you'd call top-notch, but it may not matter when the company is the only source for filmed early performances by the Gun Club, Tuxedomoon, the Screamers, Rank & File (featuring a baby-faced Alejandro Escovedo) and other, even more obscure bands from the new wave/punk era. *Michael Toland*

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