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The Stranglers

Live '78, SF (DVD)

Target Video

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From MVD distribution, comes yet another Target/San Francisco classic, this time from one of Britain's original punk heroes, The Stranglers. Shot only three years after the forming of the band in 1974, Live '78 offers a rare glimpse of the band early in their career, and this is what gives this disk it's value.

The video was show by Joe Rees himself, the founder of Target Video, who was way ahead of his time when it came to documenting the best years of punk. Although short in length, Live '78 gives you a front row seat at a show that was in support of the bands first two albums, Rattus Norvegicus and No More Heroes.

While not a complimenting film, the video provides an honest look at a fairly crappy performance by the band. Frontman Hugh Cornwell's vocals are not up to par, the keyboards and guitars suck and the band seems to be focusing more on insulting their audience than anything else. But then again, not only was this punk, this was punk at it's peak. There is no need for forgiveness, simply sit back and enjoy a history lesson firsthand with one of the greatest bands punk has given us.

- Larry Trujillo

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