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## STRANGLERS, THE • Live 1978 In San Francisco • (MVD)

Gery Vermin rates it:

### THE STRANGLERS

#### Live 1978 In San Francisco (MVD)

Ah yes, it's nice to see that the Swindle ("It's a swindle!") hasn't ceased. For them what do not know, The Stranglers were a seminal UK punk band headed up by guitarist/vocalist/insulter Hugh Cornwell and were responsible for a handful of considerable classics - namely "Peaches" (and it's use of the word - gasp - "clitoris"), "No More Heroes" and the Prong-popularized "(Get A) Grip (On Yourself)".



Taped with a single camera that appears to be on the wrong side of a filthy basement window, ...SAN FRANCISCO clocks in at a mere 30 minutes and features six songs I've never heard before ("Burning Up Time" and "Hanging Around" being the most palatable to my relatively Stranglers-ignorant earholes) as well as some of the most asinine psychedelic effects I've seen since those half-baked Sabbath and Alice Cooper videos from the Pre-Cambrian Period. Oftentimes, particularly when it's bassist Jean-Jacques Burnell's turn at the mic, it appears that the audio and video are combined from two separate sources, however, since the apparently zoom-free camera only pans from side to side, I can't claim that with certainty. "Get A Grip On Yourself" is listed prominently of course and will likely be the incentive for most people to actually pay money for this... but, oh, to be in the room with them when they witness that it only a portion of it appears under the closing credits and actually sound shittier than everything else on here.

Granted, from some viewpoints this DIY Target Video release from yesteryear could be deemed historical, however, to moi it proves that some vaults are best left rusted shut and unplundered. Unless you have money to squander senselessly and have lost my address, don't even begin to bother.

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