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DVD REVIEW



RESIDENTS - ICKY FLIX (Various)

Review by Mark Jason Murray



The Residents are an experimental music group/art project from San Francisco whose catalog of material spans over three decades. The member's identities remain secret so that their material may stand solely on its own merits. They are not a "band" but more of a creative force that covers virtually all forms of media from audio, video, cd-rom, art and live performance. Whether they are an abstract art joke or artistic geniuses, there is no denying The Residents continue to create bizarre, interesting and completely original material.

ICKY FLIX is a compilation of seventeen "music videos" culled from all periods of their long career. Utilizing any possible type of media they could get their hands on, The Residents use live action film, video, computer and traditional animation, stop motion and their wild imaginations to create essentially, short films to accompany their songs.

"Third Reich N' Roll" features black and white crazed stop motion of the band dressed in Ku Klux Klan outfits made entirely of newspaper as they rudimentarily cover "Land of 1,000 Dances" and "Whip out" to outlandish effect.

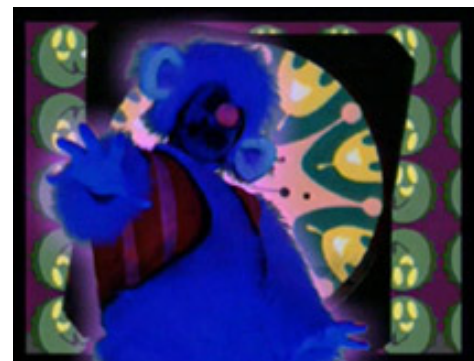
Other cover tracks are given a complete overhaul. James Brown's classic "This is a man's man's man's world" is delivered with the same soft and sentimental tone as the original but has a certain nihilism to it. The major worldwide hit "We are the World" is transformed into a twisted live performance as members dress in black light lit teddy bear costumes with frightful face paint, grunting out the lyrics as if they were more a burden than uplifting.



Songs about deformities are included from their "Freak Show" album/cd-rom/graphic novel and a restoration of their first video project, "Vileness Fats", are included among the many creative items available here.

Not content to let the material stand as is, The Residents had the ingenious idea to record new versions of every song on the DVD giving you the option to listen to the original stereo track or the new surround sound versions. The disc's menus are colorful and nicely set up, including full credits for all the video tracks, a selective discography of the band and an in-depth look at how to use the remote control to maneuver through the disc.

For anyone who is musically and visually adventurous, The Residents always deliver!



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Released by:
Music Video Distributors

Year of Release:
2005

Running time:
100 min.

Rating:
NR

Color format:
Color / B&W

Audio / Subtitles:
Stereo, 5.1 surround

Region Code:
0, NTSC

Aspect Ratio:
Full Frame

16:9 enhanced?
No

Special Features*:

Alternate audio track,
Discography

Trailer online:

No



(* We do not consider trailers, bios or chapter stops to be special features!)

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