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DVD CORNER: UPCOMING RELEASES & REVIEWS

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Government Issue - Live 1985

2005 - Music Video Distributors

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Synopsis:

Government Issue was one of the first wave of independent punk rock bands from Washington, DC in the early eighties. This DVD features two live shows from the band's California tours of 1985. Captured raw and up close on video, this footage is hardly pristine, but that it survived at all is amazing.

Always a fantastic live band, Government Issue grind out the songs in workman-like fashion as singer John Stabbreigns over the enthusiastic crowd, injecting humor and chaos into the mix. Concentrating on material from Government Issue's classic albums Joy Ride and The Fun Just Never Ends, just as their song-writing began to eclipse the generic hardcore sound, Live 1985 is a great view of Government Issue and the raucous punk rock scene in America in the mid-eighties.

2 live shows from a seminal punk band in the height of their mid-80s glory - as the synopsis says, amazing that these survived to this day. Kudos to MVD for releasing them on a format that will preserve these classic concerts for fans and future generations to enjoy. It's an interesting glimpse into what true punk rock used to be like, before going mainstream in the mid-90s and never looking back.

Video: How's it look?

1985 punk concerts shot live on video - it is what it is. It's not cinematically beautiful, but the quality is a bit better than you might have expected and the grittiness just adds to the overall presentation.

Audio: How's it sound?

Dolby 5.1 mix is gritty, raw and very live - perfect, given that could describe this DVD as well!

Extras: What all's on the DVD?

- nada

Closing Thoughts

Entertaining snapshot of a band whose time has come & gone + no extras = nice collectible DVD for genre fans



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