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He's a scraggly figure of rock 'n' roll rebellion to this day, but it's still a bit weird to lay eyes upon footage of punk pioneer Iggy Pop from almost two and a half decades ago and see how little he's changed, both physically and emotionally. The same clipped, sardonic tones; the same finely calibrated punk chops; the same heroin chic physique. They're all there, along with the cathartic jolt of his music, in *Iggy Pop: Live San Fran 1981*, a slight and straightforward but valuable concert disc for those dedicated to punk's lineage.

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From the chaos of the early Stooges shows to his recent work with the Trolls and even sneer progeny like Sum 41, Pop has remained a vital live performer. This DVD finds the godfather of punk fronting a band that includes Blondie drummer Clem Burke and future Bowie guitarist Carlos Alomar for a late November '81 show near the end of a tour in support of his album *Party*. The video is rough like the tunes, but cast in pink, purple and blue hues that seem to visually highlight the bruised, brutish rhythms on display. Twelve songs get a workout on the 50-minute set, including "Some Weird Sin," "Houston is Hot Tonight," "Rock & Roll Party," "Bang Bang," "Pumpin' for Jill," "I'm a Conservative," "1969," "I Need More" and "T.V. Eye."

Set highlights, however, are probably lggy's garter belt-and-stockings get-up for "Eggs on Plate" and a surprisingly low-key version of the unfalteringly get-up-and-go "Lust for Life," the best growl-pop ditty lggy ever penned. This performance, with its 90-second instrumental opening and disaffected, at times almost spoken-word delivery, stands in stark contrast to memories of lggy flinging himself off stages in corporeal support for his music's anarchic undertones, but it serves as a powerful reminder that underneath the surface snarl there was an important bite to lggy's songcraft as well.

The bummer for most of these vintage-era concert DVD releases is the shoddy sound, but *lggy*

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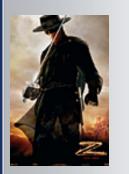


Polls

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Episode III: Revenge of the Sith Episode II: Attack of the Clones Episode I: The Phantom Menace Episode VI: Return of the Jedi Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back Episode IV: A New Hope (of course!)

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Pop: Live San Fran 1981 luckily comes through crisp and clear in a nicely mixed 5.1 surround sound. If the camera operator's occasional zooms and shakes (really not too big of a problem) come off as amateurish, well, at least you know he was enjoying himself.

DVD extras unfortunately include only a trailer for *Iggy and the Stooges: Live in Detroit*, but Iggy fans and musicologists in general won't want to miss a second chance to see and enjoy such a rare performance from the punk legend. *Live San Fran 1981* is a solid aural time capsule and, in case you were wondering, shows where R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe copped those early, affected dance moves. **B- (Movie) C+ (Disc)**

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