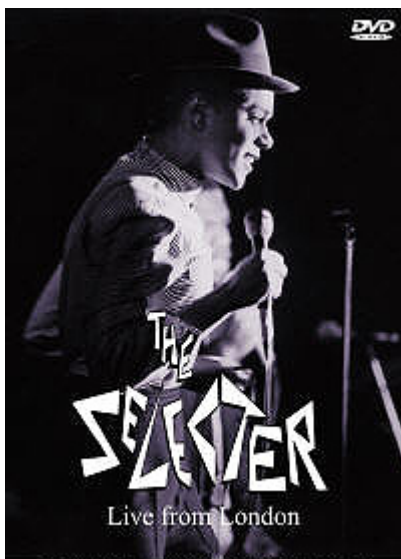




## THE SELECTER: LIVE FROM LONDON

Reviewed by Winslow Leach



DIGITALLY MASTERED • 5.1 SURROUND SOUND • INCLUDES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**THE REVIEW:** In the early 80s, music was undergoing a change or a rejuvenation. In the mid 70s, the mainstream rock groups were becoming very boring and many kids began to start their own groups and they had a louder, faster and dangerous edge to their music. This movement became known as "punk rock" and it was made popular by bands like The Ramones, The Sex Pistols and The Clash among many others. By the early 80s, the explosive nature of the punk rock movement was beginning to break apart. During this time a lot of the punk rock energy began to work itself into more mainstream sounds. New Wave music took the aggressive punk rock DIY aesthetic and fused it with more radio listener friendly, neo-artistic aspects. During this time, world music began to find its way into the New Wave genre and one of the results was the ska revival in Britain. Ska was originally from Jamaica, but groups such as The Specials, Madness, The Body Snatchers and The English Beat were new ska bands that were made up of kids (both black and white) from the industrial, poor parts of working class England. They actually

had a lot in common with the underclass Jamaican people.

One of the most popular of the ska revival bands, but one that didn't get nearly as much press as their fellow groups was The Selector. Formed in 1979, The Selector came from Coventry, England the same hometown as their fellow ska group The Specials. Led by the excellent ska toaster Pauline Black, the Selector brought another special aspect to their music by having a female lead vocalist. Many claim that Pauline is actually the BEST of the ska toasters from this time. Their first album "Too Much Pressure" released in 1980 was a solid success and they had a hit single "On My Radio". They followed that album with "Celebrate The Bullet". This album didn't do very well and quickly the band was over.

In the early 90s, Pauline Black rejoined with The Selector for a short time and played clubs. Their music was well received and people were having a great time rocking with the ska music made by them a decade earlier. They even toured with No Doubt, a modern pop/ska/rock band led by female vocalist Gwen Stefani who herself was heavily influenced by Pauline Black and The Selector.

1999 was the 20th Anniversary of 'Two Tone Music' and The Selector. The album 'Cruel Britannia', released on the Snapper label also featured legendary reggae artist Dave Barker, who had hit records in the seventies. Dave performed live with The Selector to promote the new

album. The Selecter completed a successful summer festival circuit, highlights included Glastonbury 2002 and Reggae Sunsplash.

This new DVD from MVD and Secret Films is an exciting document of one of The Selecter's live shows. You get to see Pauline Black toasting and driving the crowds crazy in her special style. Pauline has a charismatic stage presence and she's definitely one of the finest pop music performers I've seen. You'll be agreeing with me when you see her in action. She gets the crowd going and the high energy from them and The Selecter is evident on this DVD.

#### THE DVD

REGION: 1

STUDIO: Music Video Distributors/Secret Films

FILM SPECS: Presented in (4:3) Full Frame. Color. Digital Film to DVD transfer looks great! Another wonderful formatting job by the good folks at MVD and Secret Films.

EXTRAS: Interview with lead vocalist Pauline Black. This is a really nice interview where Pauline talks about the history of the band, her projects outside of The Selecter and more. Band Biography & Photos.

AUDIO: Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound & Dolby 2.0 Mono. Turn up the home theater system and go crazy with The Selecter! Irie!

THE FINAL TOAST: The Selecter Live In London is an excellent performance with another of the best of the early 80s British ska masters. If you love ska/reggae, make sure to pick up The Selecter Live In London and The English Beat Live. You won't be disappointed!

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