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God Save the Queen: A Punk Rock Anthology

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"God Save the Queen: A Punk Rock Anthology" is everything the name implies. Twenty performances by 20 of the bands that were the roots of punk rock. U.S. bands like Dead Boys and Germs sit side by side with their British companions X-Ray Spex and U.K. Subs. The tracks vary in quality from grainy bootleg videos to well produced music videos. None of it is terrible, and a lot of it is great.

Something that struck me about the performances on "God Save the Queen" was the energy these bands put into their performance. While we're used to seeing rockstar posturing these bands played like they were on the brink of breakdown. Dead Boys rip through "Sonic Reducer" and frontman Stiv Bators looks like he's about to fall apart on stage. When The Exploited play "F\*ck the USA" I wouldn't be surprised if the entire band become victims of spontaneous human combustion.

No compilation attempting to define a genre can include everyone's favorite band, and there are some history making bands that are conspicuously absent from "God Save the Queen". What we get in their place are some hard to find gems. The often overlooked Toy Dolls represent with "Nellie the Elephant" and the sorely underrated Goldblade shows their power on "Black Sheep Radical".

In addition to high power performances "God Save the Queen" includes some excellent interview footage. The longest of these being an interview with the late Johnny Thunders just after he sobered up. Marky Ramone talks about the formation of The Ramones and their affect on rock music. Generation X tells us what being a band means to them. These are rare bits of punk history that would be lost without compilations like this.

"God Save the Queen" is a DVD any punk rock fan will enjoy. The roots of the genre still represent in today's platinum selling artists. The spirit and tenacity sometimes doesn't feel the same. Check out "God Save the Queen" to see the spirit that sparked a revolution, and changed the face of rock n roll.

Reviewed by: **Jim McDonald**

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