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God Save the Queen – A Punk Rock Anthology (DVD)

Picture: D Sound: D
Extras: D Film: D



Honestly, **God Save the Queen** bewilders me. To admit that an anthology of Punk which includes live clips and videos of bands which I hold dear, such as X-Ray Spex, Buzzcocks, Iggy & the Stooges, Johnny Thunders and The Dead Boys, has no redeeming value truly pains me. How can it be?

Here's how: **God Save the Queen** provides not a shred of context nor betrays any evidence of forethought or care on the part of this DVD's producers. Simply put this is a hack job with one mercenary mission - to steal the money of the Punk fan.

Look, if you're going to title a DVD **God Save the Queen** there are certain expectations you had better live up to. To invoke the Sex Pistols might suggest to the naive that the Sex Pistols will be represented. Alas, they are not. Nor are any of what we might consider A-list British punk

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bands such as The Clash or The Damned a part of this project either. But Vice Squad and Blitz somehow made the cut?

And then there's the inclusion of American acts such as The Stooges (represented with a clip from their recent reunion tour), Dead Boys, and Johnny Thunders (represented with a clip that un-seamlessly splices together a late '70s Heartbreakers show and a late '80s Thunders show). Rather than a clip of The Ramones we're offered a very brief and very recent interview with Marky Ramone saying nothing of particular interest.

Firstly, why are American bands even a part of this DVD considering its ur-British title? Secondly, and this is a problem throughout, why include on a DVD that is clearly invoking Punk's late '70s heyday clips that are as recent as a few years ago?

The answer obviously is money. These clips were cheaply had and it would have cost a bit to wrangle footage of The Clash or The Ramones from their respective record companies. But certainly that's no excuse for putting out such a shoddy, ill-conceived product as **God Save the Queen**.

I suggest this DVD be pulled from the marketplace, that the clips of American bands be excised, that all recent footage also be cut, supplement that with a few more clips of lesser known British Punk bands, re-title the package Germ Free Adolescents or Your Generation or after some other fine but not so well known song, and release the DVD like that. I wouldn't feel cheated by that particular product; in fact I'd welcome it with open arms, ears, and wallet.

Until that DVD is released, though, please avoid **God Save the Queen**.

- Kristofer Collins

Kristofer Collins is an editor at The New Yinzer and the owner of Desolation Row CDs in Pittsburgh, PA. Visit Desolation Row at www.myspace.com/desolationrowcds for more.

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