



ARTIST: Various

ALBUM: God Save the Queen: A Punk Rock Anthology (Music Video Distributors)



This curiously titled DVD (The Sex Pistols don't appear anywhere on it) is a visual digest that glimpses into the roots of punk rock. Focusing mainly on first and second wave punk (save for revivalists Goldblade), the collection is comprised mainly of live footage and music videos, sprinkled with interview clips.

At its best, the collection features cogent snapshots of the era with rousing live performances (Dead Boys, UK Subs, Buzzcocks, Iggy & the Stooges, Generation X, Subhumans, Chelsea, GBH and Sham 69), some good videos (The Exploited, Blitz) and occasionally interesting interviews (including one with a baby-faced, pre-solo Billy Idol). Beyond all the recklessness and sneer however, the DVD also touches on some quality art punk like the hilariously absurdist Toy Dolls and X-Ray Spex, who surely gave Kathleen Hanna (Le Tigre, Bikini Kill) some ideas.

At its worst, it gives screen time to forgettable footage (Vice Squad, Germs, 999) and silly videos (The Adicts). Furthermore, the DVD is rife with imperfections like poor audio, amateurish video and ham-handed dubbing.

Taken in aggregate, the anthology tends toward miscellany and there's not much of a storyline, which is too bad perhaps. But it never purports to be a historical document, just an omnibus. And as a sampling of that definitive cultural movement, it does a respectable job of achieving authenticity.

-- **Bao Le-Huu**, Orlando CityBeat Writer