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DVD Review

'God save the Queen; A Punk Rock Anthology'

In stores Jan 24th

A terrific compilation of twenty live performances by some legendary and influential musicians (if you can call them that) of the seventies punk era. There are interviews with the late Johnny Thunders, Poly Styrene of X-Ray Spex and Marky Ramone of the Ramones. It's flavoured with poverty, rebellion and social and political anger. Many punk bands formed as a chance to earn money in a time of high unemployment. It's fascinating to see the variations on the three chord punk theme. The legendary Stiv Bators of the Dead Boys. See the UK Subs set their 'Symphony of War' against a film backdrop of blitz era London. Iggy Pop and the Stooges perform 'Naughty Little Doggy', underscoring that Pop, the Godfather of Punk, is the second most energetic scenery chewer after James Brown. The Adicts (sic) intercut live footage with street scenes reminiscent of 'A Hard Days Night' in their early rock video version of 'Vive La Revolution'. Also on the disc is an historic performance of 'Boredom' by the Buzzcocks. Billy Idol is a fresh faced, pre-snarl kid who looks about eight years old leading Generation X before he broke out with the commercial hit 'White Wedding', which ironically was performed at middle class weddings around the world. There are plenty of out to here Mohawks, seventies punk street wear and grainy good times. It reflects an incredibly exciting chapter of rock music that smashed all the rules in response to mediocrity. Its fun, raw and real and of interest historically and as pure entertainment. I'd love to see what they all look like now, the ones who survived that turbulent time.