



Buzzcocks - *Live at Shepherds Bush Empire 2003*
(DVD, [Music Video Distributors](#) / [Secret Films](#))

Peter Shelley of **The Buzzcocks** was easily the smartest of the original wave of British punk songwriters of the 1970s. Forming a perfect fusion of bubblegum and punk, Shelley defined his own sound and vision in such a way that he had no competitors. During the first phase of the band's career they had a good deal of success in England...but never had a hit in the United States. Shelley eventually embarked on a solo career that was ultimately not as well received (although some of his solo material was fantastic). Because of renewed interest in The Buzzcocks over time, Shelley eventually revived the band. This DVD features the new Buzzcocks in concert in 2003. The band cranks out 32 tunes, most of which are from the 1970s albums. Unlike other bands from the past, the band plays with gusto and style...making songs that are now three decades old sound fresh and new again. It's interesting that the majority of new Buzzcocks fans seem to be very young. It's a treat seeing Pete present all the hits in surround sound...but it's also a bit disappointing when one stops to realize that the band's creative output since the 1970s just hasn't been that impressive. This concert would have been much more balanced if there were more familiar recent tunes thrown into the mix. Thus, this is not the ultimate Buzzcocks experience. It's a good view...but the band doesn't have the same spark they once had. All the DVD extras are, as usual, throwaway footage. In our minds, The Buzzcocks will always be one of our top favorite British acts from the 1970s. But we'd sure like to see them come up with a fantastic new studio album at some point in time... (Rating: 4+++)



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