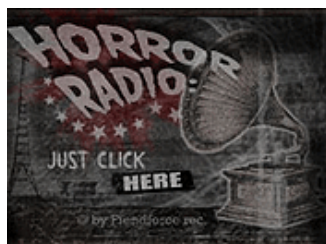


Hiya Anonymous!

Jan 20, 2006

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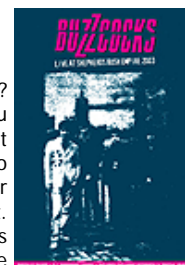
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**BUZZCOCKS • Live At Shepherds Bush Empire 2003 • (2006 MVD)**

Gery Vermin rates it:

BUZZCOCKS**Live At Shepherds Bush Empire 2003 (MVD)**

Remember them days prior to eBay bootleggers and KISS' "instant live" swindle? When you would stumble out of a show, head still ringing, just WISHING you had some sort of permanent documentation of the greatness you'd just witnessed. Well, such was the case in mid-2003 when T-Mac and I fell out onto the rubble-cum-sidewalk in front of Lawrence's Bottleneck having just had our equilibriums turned upside down by a completely brilliant Buzzcocks set. Although I was clutching a tattered and muddled setlist to commemorate this stellar life event, it just wasn't the same without Pete Shelley's incomprehensible patter and Steve Diggle's guitar antihero shenanigans. Nearly three years have passed - without another opportunity to see the band, mind you - when, lo and huzzah, what does MVD plink forth but a DVD from the very same tour, just several weeks prior (and fresher) to the spectacle we'd witnessed firsthand, an opening slot with Pearl Jam and a well-deserved night on Madison Square Garden's stage.



Taped April 27 in their United Kingdom homeland and following a successful sacking of Australia, LIVE AT SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE captures the band doing what they was born to do: delivering a rapid fire 32-song bitchslap of some of the greatest pop punk ever created. "Boredom" - featuring Shelley's put-out voice and equally disinterested picking - gets things off to a particularly turgid beginning and - with the help of multiple shots and lickety-split editing - blurs with almost Ramones-like fervency into "Fast Cars", "I Don't Mind" and "Love Battery". Then-new material like "Jerk", "Driving You Insane", "Friends" and "Keep On" (complete with three false starts - "We might have different setlists, who fuckin' knows?" sez bassist Tony Barber) blends flawlessly with Buzzclassics "Something's Gone Wrong Again", "Autonomy", "Love You More", "Breakdown" and "Lester Sands". While the entire show is nothing short of a winner, my favorite moments come mid-show as the ever-entertainingly-expectorating Diggle and Shelley trade vocal duties back and forth - the respective "Mad Mad Judy" and "Totally From The Heart" causing particular frothy fervor. While I totally understand that the pair are the Lennon and McCartney of "Punk's Beatles", it'd be cool to see a bit more spotlighting on drummer Philip Barker and, especially, bassist Barber - who've both been buzzing cocks steadily since '93's TRADE TEST TRANSMISSIONS. "I Believe" closes the main set, paving the way for a 10-ditty double encore including "Times Up", "Sixteen", "Promises" and - of course - the HITS: "What Do I Get", "Orgasm Addict" and show-closer "Ever Fallen In Love With Someone..."

As soon as you're able to lift a limb following such an exhaustive show, you'll wanna get your ass straight away into "Extra Buzz"... no sir, no potatoes to go with the meat here. We're talking thick sirloin with a side of brisket and two pounds of bacon - nothing but the best will do. Included is a 13 minute soundcheck, a 45-minute sit-down with Diggle and Shelley on the stairway of Shepherds Bush Empire, 18 minutes of "on the road" footage, an Aussie bimette vee-jay who can't get Diggle's name right to save her clueless life, clips from the "Jerk" video shoot in France, and more. My, my... if you only knew the buzz that awaits you. I'll be stuck to the ceiling awaiting your company. Extra-large "wheels!" all around...

Added: Thursday, January 19, 2006

hits: 10

Language: eng

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