

# AMP MOVIECORE! (DECEMBER EDITION) – BY JIM KAZ

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MOVIECORE! (December Edition)  
By Jim Kaz

This past year has been a fruitful one for insightful punk-rock docs, concert flicks, hi-def nuggets, off-kilter TV bits, and box sets to die for. If you're looking for a few good reasons to blow your precious stash this season, this list is for you.

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### Our Forefathers The Proto-Punk Box

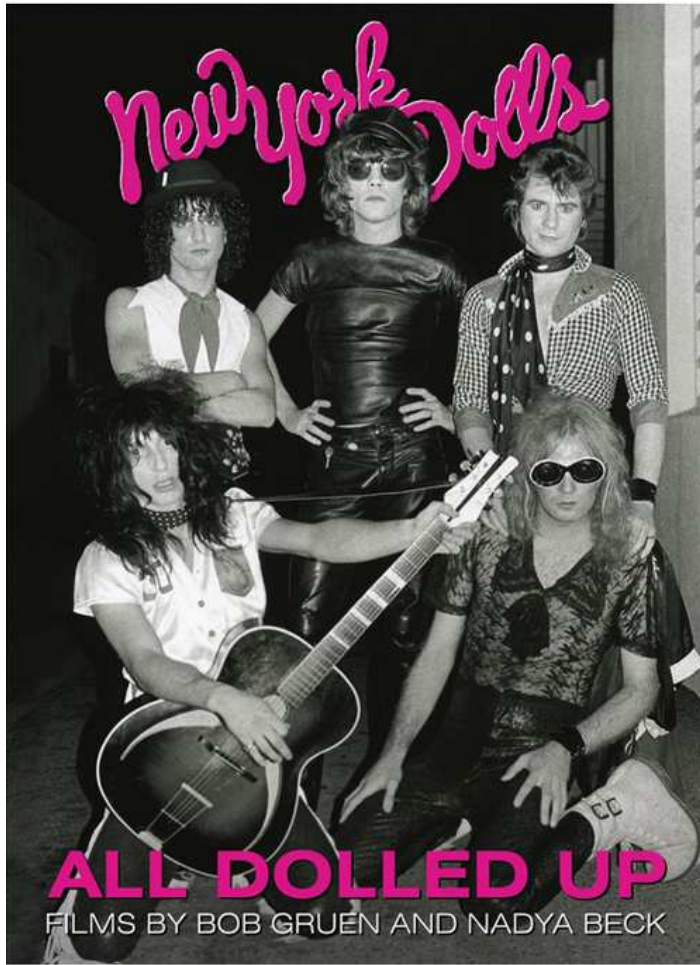
Everyone's got his or her own take on how punk rock came to be. Some say it started with the raunchy sounds of '60s garage bands, while others contend the Velvet Underground's subversive themes and dark imagery was the impetus. Then, there was the overt onstage nihilism of Jim Morrison—obviously a key influence on Iggy Pop—and of course, Alice Cooper, who brought rebellious shock rock to the mix. Either way, it all became clearer by the time The Stooges and the MC5 officially hit the scene.

This 4-disc set focuses on four early purveyors of what would become punk rock: MC5, Iggy & the Stooges, The New York Dolls and The Dead Boys. Each of these docs has a low-budget feel, which actually adds to



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the seediness of the content (hint: no need for a hi-def set-up). While some of this is stuff is pretty par for the course—and any self-respecting punk enthusiast would already be in the know—for the uninitiated, it should be a treat, especially the vintage footage. The standout of the set is the New York Dolls' *All Dolled Up* DVD. The disc features loads of candid live footage that still feels strangely offbeat, even today. Photographer Bob Gruen and his wife hung out with the band, capturing loads of slice-of-life moments along with some great live shots. This disc is worth the paltry price of the set alone.



The Dead Boys' *Live at CBGB 1977* features some great live footage of the band at its peak—with a young, disorderly Stiv Bator leading the band through a set of infectious anthems. (Stiv would go on to form the fantastic post-punk/goth/glam outcasts Lord of the New Church a few years later—more on that in a future installment.) While not exactly “forefathers” in contrast with the other three bands included, it’s still a nice addition, and a decent live document.

The MC5 disc, *Kick Out the Jams* presents a history through archival footage. The source quality is lacking, but the story is still fascinating. Perhaps the biggest disappointment is the Stooges DVD. *Live in Detroit 2003* presents the reformed band live in its hometown, without much by way of historical context. While it would’ve been amazing to have either of the key vintage lineups in their original incarnations, the sight of the aging band cranking through early nuggets gets a bit tedious. Iggy Pop is as animated as ever, but sounds a bit off. I’m sure it was a different story inside the venue, but on the TV, it misses the mark.

For those who seriously geek out on this stuff, there’s a bonus. For a limited time, you can also get two punk forefathers along with the set—MC5’s Wayne Kramer and James Williamson from Iggy & The Stooges. These svelte little vinyl statues come with each players’ signature guitar, and actually play riffs. Each would make a killer addition when displayed next to grandma’s china collection. (MVD)

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Hell yea! Werner Pauwels knows what's up! Iron Chic is bad ass!

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