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**MUSIC » Mike Doughty vs. Nick Lowe** - In looking at two albums - one new, one old - (re)released on Tuesday, LAS staff writer Dan Weiss found a unifying truth at the heart of his latest "versus" installment. "Aging sucks, and one thing Mike Doughty and Nick Lowe have in common is that they prove the hell out of it."

[02.21.2008 by Dan Weiss]



**CINEMA » Oscars 2008** - Operating under the theme "Let's Keep It Interesting," LAS cinema junkie Susan Howson takes a stab at predicting the winners and the should-winners ahead of this Sunday's airing of the 80th Annual Academy Awards®. (Gotta include that registration symbol!)

[02.21.2008 by Susan Howson]



**CINEMA » Flipper Live** - Vietnam veteran guitarist Ted Falconi, drummer Stephen DePace, bassist/vocalist Bruce Loose and bassist/vocalist Will Shatter - laughed at a society consumed by commercialism. They laughed at Ronald Reagan and the apocalyptic promise of the Cold War. They laughed at you, with all your petty concerns and imaginary fears. But, mostly, they laughed at themselves.

[02.19.2008 by Peter Lindblad]

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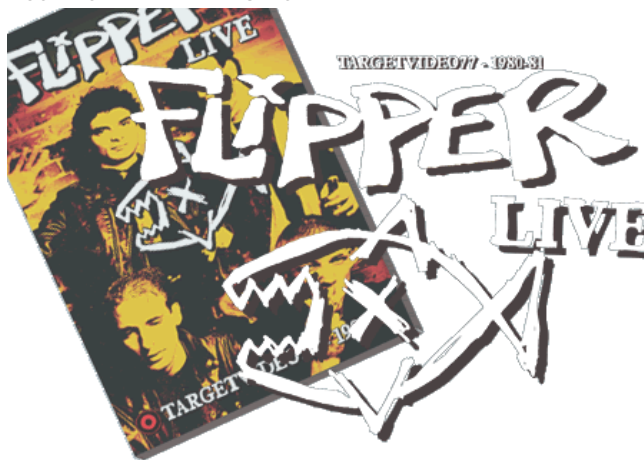
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February 19, 2008

**RATING: 8/10**

At a time when West Coast punks were morphing into hardcore bullet trains hellbent on speeding violently towards oblivion, Flipper laughed. In that mocking tone of theirs, most apparent in the ominous vitriol of "Ha Ha Ha," the disparate parts that collectively made up Flipper - Vietnam veteran guitarist Ted Falconi, drummer Stephen DePace, bassist/vocalist Bruce Loose and bassist/vocalist Will Shatter - laughed at a society consumed by commercialism. They laughed at Ronald Reagan and the apocalyptic promise of the Cold War. They laughed at you, with all your petty concerns and imaginary fears. But, mostly, they laughed at themselves.

Unlike anything that crawled out of the gutter known as the Bay Area punk scene of the late 1970s and early '80s, Flipper, at least on paper, made no sense. On one hand, there was Falconi whipping up squalls of distorted noise with no regard for conventional guitar playing. Off on their own, Loose and Shatter plotted in secret, spitting out weird lyrics and working out slow, nihilistic bass lines in rudimentary fashion. All the while, DePace pummeled away, steady as can be. Strange as it sounds, all those contradictions made for compelling theater.

Described in the liner notes as an "ugly beauty," the live incarnation of Flipper was thrilling and unpredictable. No two shows were ever the same, as the new, archival DVD, *Flipper Live: Target Video 77 - 1980-81*, makes abundantly clear. Comprised of rare footage from two shows, the video - dug out from the archives of California punk documentarians Target Video - revisits a 1980 concert at Berkeley Square in Berkeley, California, and the band's moment of glory when opening for industrial legends Throbbing Gristle in 1981.

Staged by Target Video with a crowd full of friends and family of the band, along with other assorted misfits, the Berkeley Square show finds a relaxed Flipper in all its sloppy glory. Flashes of brilliance come with the groove-oriented pull of "Low Rider," the split personality of "Friends," and the cataclysmic morass of "One By One." It includes the only known video of Flipper drunkenly careening through "The Wheel," with friend Denny DeGorio adding his own touch - an improvised reading of The Rolling Stones' "Shattered." Not the most professional of performances - wrong notes and false starts abound - it's as fun as any basement show you've ever been to, and Berkeley Square, neon colors puked all over its surfaces, is the perfect site for such a party.

Darker and more unsettling, the Kezar Stadium show was something else entirely. Backed by disturbing video imagery, Flipper, despite constant equipment outages and the hostile vibes emanating from the crowd, plowed through its set with purpose and smoldering anger. Seething, black-hearted versions of "Shine" and "One By One" cry from the depths of a private hell, while "Nothing" sees no future in anything and poisons minds. Battered and bruised by distortion, "Low Rider" assumes a new identity here, one that's disinterested but more dangerous. And when Falconi destroys his guitar in a fit of rage, Flipper has thrown down the gauntlet - beat that, Throbbing Gristle.

Packaged with a more recently made video of Flipper's most known song, the monumentally stupid but infectious as hell "Sex Bomb," *Target Video77: 1980-81* reveals the many sides of a band that is just now resurrecting itself, with former Nirvana

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