



## **Flipper - Live**

Review by Joe Milliken

San Francisco's Flipper was one of the true, unpretentious West Coast punk bands of the late 70's and early 80's. A band that did not look to play the part visually or even musically, because they knew the true essence of the genre was their attitude and minimalist style that would ultimately leave their smeared finger prints all over the face of the punk music landscape.

Although they never seemed to get the credit and recognition that some other punk bands of the era received such as Black Flag, Minutemen, Bad Brains and Husker Du, Flipper was every bit as vital and deserving.

The newly released Live Target Video 1980-81 showcases two classic Flipper gigs, a 1980 Berkeley, CA performance at Berkeley Square, with the second from San Francisco's famed Kezar Stadium in 1981.

The Berkley set appears to especially epitomize Flipper's "I don't give a fuck" attitude, the show set in a new wave club atmosphere full of coke heads and high-brow Hollywood wanna-bees, perhaps coaxing the band to purposely push the envelope between sheer obnoxiousness and a downright purposeful inability. However as the fans know, a Flipper-like maneuver, in the truest sense of the word.

Both sets (plus one bonus track taken from a 1983 San Francisco cable TV appearance) effectively represent Flipper's manic, distortion-drenched sound that drones in and grates at the listener, which was their whole idea from the start - to maniacally attack their fans' psyche amidst the somehow controlled chaos. This absurd band was brilliant, because they didn't care what you thought because they didn't care themselves.