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REVIEW

Music DVD Review: The Queers - *The Queers Are Here*

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With your not so ordinary household band name, The Queers have finally released their very first DVD *The Queers Are Here*. Having been together on and off for twenty years now, the band felt it was time to release a DVD of live footage for the admiring fans. The DVD includes live footage from a whole slew of shows and also some interviews by the band members themselves. The total running time is a little over an hour.

The New Hampshire natives call themselves the Queers not because of a sexual orientation but more to poke fun at a ritzy snobby community that they resided in at the time of the band's conception in 1982. They also wanted to give themselves a band name that people would remember. Their sound is street punk mixed with pop punk. To me they are a wilder Ramones type band that loves to sing about girls, drugs, and just having fun. They played out from 1982 to 1984 and then reformed in the 1990's with a new line up and have pretty much been playing out since then.

Starting with a classic punk rock beginning, the DVD starts with the Queers playing at what looks to be small club or even VFW hall when all of the sudden lead singer Joe King (a.k.a. Joe Queer) starts yelling at a kid in the crowd "Stop F*cking with the roadie!" Apparently the kid had something smart to say back to Joe Queer and he called to have the kid removed from the scene. All of the fans start laughing and point at the kid as he gets ejected from the show — classic.

The video "Don't Back Down" was awesome to watch. It was like watching a Beach Boys video on acid. The video may never have made it to good ol' MTV, but I loved every bit of it. So what if they were not really surfing — the video was humorous, and the girls were cute, and that works for me.

Jamming through such tunes as "This Place Sucks," "Tamara Is A Punk," and "Punk Rock Girls," the *The Queers Are Here* DVD shows a lot of their classic performances through the eyes of a fan thanks to low quality camcorders. The sound is off at times, but that is to be expected, especially when it is self recording and not something done by a professional company. The video recording was from US shows as well as overseas shows proving how popular this street punk band really is.

The interviews were interesting at times and seemed to be spur of the moment. Sometimes the band would talk about their history. Other times the band would talk about personal band experiences, such as a fourteen year old girl whose mother would drop her off at their shows and basically trust her daughter with the band. The girl would joke with the Queers to write a song about her and eventually they did. Of course you have to have a punk rock moment, so Joe Queer states that she's got to be at least eighteen years old now and is probably smoking hot.

Although the footage was more of a shaky home movie grade at times, the DVD was a lot of fun to watch because it reminded me of cramming into small clubs with tons of other punk rockers and having the time of my life. I got a kick out of watching the crowd get into the music, warm up, and just let go. As soon as the Queers would start up a song, you could see the energy rise and then out of no where a circle pit would start with kids dancing all around with not a care in the world. Fans arrived each night to see The Queers, a punk rock legend, play out some songs for them. Seeing the kids flail their arms in the air and sing along in approval proved how good life can be.

Diesel hails from the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. Living the American dream by feeding off of Guinness and Chipolte, this former punk rock super hero has finally slowed down a little and accepted the fact that he is a better listener of music than a performer...

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