

# the B-Movie Buffet

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## Desperate Teenage Lovedolls [Eclectic DVD]

1984; color

Directed by David Markey

Starring: Jennifer Schwartz, Hilary Rubens, Steve McDonald, Tracy Lea,  
Jeff McDonald, Kim Pilkington, Janet Housden & Michael F. Glass

Originally released in 1984, and sporting a fantastic soundtrack of classic West Coast punk, *Desperate Teenage Lovedolls* is an amazing time capsule-esque look at the LA scene "back in the day" and a pretty damn cool movie to boot. Arguably it's a little raw and rough around the edges, and pretty much everywhere in between, (the actors mumble a bit, the camera is shaky, some scenes are kinda dark, etc.) but this undeniably charming super low budget super-8 film was made by young punks, about young punks and, presumably, for young punks so what the hell were you expecting? Although I've known about this film for a long time, I had actually never seen it so I was excited when this unexpectedly appeared in the mailbox. (And, hello, one of the Lovedolls is named Bunny! I wish I could say I chose part one of my pseudonym in Bunny Tremolo's honor but it was actually a nod to Bunny Yeager.) Similar in form and function to many other band related sagas - real and fictionalized - *DTL* follows the trail of the all female rockin teenage combo, the Lovedolls, on their quest for fame, glory and all the good shit that comes with fame and glory. (So that covers part two and three of the title trio; the desperate part I assume to be in reference to their desperation to get away from their parents and/or the banality of mid-'80s suburbia.) Of course, they encounter all the standard bumps in the road: drug use/abuse, sleazy manager types who want to make skin trades for their services, and jealous bands of rival punkettes out to

protect their territory and their men; plus a little mur-diddley-urder thrown in for good measure. If I understand the plotline correctly though, the Lovedolls succeed in becoming somewhat famous and somewhat rich (the movie's only an hour or so in length so they have to kind of hurry through the rise to fame part) but, ultimately, the ladies find themselves in a situation that threatens their existence - literally and metaphorically. Which leaves plenty of room for a sequel; and, guess what, they made one! It's called Lovedolls Superstar and it was originally released about two years after the original. According to the [We Got Power Films](#) website, it's about to be re-released on DVD in a "fully realized" state sometime in the near future. I have no idea what the fully realized part of that re-release refers to but I will indeed be looking forward to that. This DVD also has some cool bonus features: a commentary track by director Dave Markey and producer Jordan Schwartz, some outtakes, a couple trailers, the Redd Kross video for "Ballad Of A Lovedoll", and a highly entertaining short feature on the making of DTL and the history of We Got Power (which was a zine prior to becoming a film company) narrated by Markey.

—Bunny

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