

Issue 29

SKYSCRAPER

KING OF PUNK: THE RELEVANCE OF A 3-CHORD REVOLUTION

Dirs. Julie & Kenneth van Schooten - ETiT Productions

In *King of Punk*, Sonny Vincent of The Testors explains the original punk movement, saying, "This was something radical to the people and they had a strong reaction to it." El Vez of The Zeros later states that punk is about "young ideas, new ideas, different directions." The film then cuts to a present day punk show with a somewhat apathetic crowd of North Carolina Mohawks standing around aimlessly. There's little in the way of "different directions" evident in this carbon copy snapshot of modern punk rock. The scene has become a caricature of itself, a fact which is brought up in *King of Punk*, as filmmakers Julie and Kenneth van Schooten follow around OBGYN, an all-girl punk band from North Carolina that broke-up even before the documentary came to a close (right on the money for a punk band) after teenage pregnancy and lukewarm drama ensues. The filmmakers also follow around Boston-based hearse-and-bullet belt punks Struggle (not to be confused with the seminal San Diego hardcore band of the same name). Jayne

County definitely provides the best moments in this documentary, as does *The Big Takeover* publisher Jack Rabid. Overall, though, *King of Punk* has too narrow a scope to be relevant to anyone but those still sporting mohawks and Casualties patches on their leather jackets. The subject of *King of Punk* could have just as easily been about indie or any other subgenre of not-necessarily-major-label D.I.Y. rock music. (Steve Five)

kingofpunkmovie.com