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x-ray spex - live @ the roundhouse london 2008

tuesday, december 1, 2009



X-Ray Spex
Live @ The Roundhouse London 2008
Year Zero



In the middle of their comeback gig X-Ray Spex frontwoman Poly Styrene curiously proclaims "I'm losing my voice," as if she ever had one to begin with. Although this performance had the now-middle-aged punks in front of 3,000 people at London's glorious Roundhouse, the band sounded just as raw and unrehearsed as in recordings of their infamous '77 gigs at The Roxy and Styrene's vocals remain just as delightfully indecipherable – fortunately, the hardback packaging of the CD/DVD package includes the lyrics to her brilliantly crass, abstract social commentary that would be lost in the anarchy of her vocal performance.



Chills run down the leather-clad spines of '77's biggest fans as Ms. Styrene proclaims "Some people think little girls should be seen and not heard! But I think..." kicking off "Oh Bondage Up Yours!" a punk-spun Sadian commentary of neocapitalism that would come to be the group's battlecry. The setlist includes the better part of the band's 1978 debut, *Germ Free Adolescents*, along with early singles (learn the cultural theory of fairytalism 101 in "Highly Inflammable") and B-Sides (most notably the beautifully simplistic "I Am A Cliché").



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The DVD portion of the release makes it apparent that fans of the band have thankfully not outgrown pogoing, slamdancing, and crowdsurfing and that the band has far from lost its riotous youthfulness. The voluptuous Styrene, now brace-free, playfully bounces across the stage shrieking anthemic attacks on pop stardom ("Obsessed With You"), the commodification of humanity ("Melancholy"), and the

Maserat...

globalization diet ("Junk Food Junkie") catchy enough to make Mussolini shake his

Jemina Pearl @

fascist groove-thang. - *Izzy Cihak*

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posted by izzy cihak at 3:16 am



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