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## Leatherface "Boat in the Smoke" (Punkervision)

By **Tim Den**

Wednesday, Apr 20, 12:25 AM

A truly emotional, visceral, cathartic live band.



Anyone who has ever seen **Leatherface** live can attest that their experience is emotional, visceral, cathartic, and energetic. The band members themselves don't really move much on stage, but their energy translates into something bigger and better than the average rock band going bonkers onstage. For Leatherface, however, the energy is all banter (in fact, guitarist/vocalist Frankie Stubbs says a 57-minute set): just their unique brand of smoky, searing punk rock. Like Hot Water Music (who are obviously greatly influenced by the folk-ish chord patterns and the feeling they evoke with their music), they somehow create all the impact. You can drink, lament, and sing along with Leatherface. A real punk rock band indeed.

Recorded at a Camden Underground show last year, *Boat in the Smoke* is the band's latest release: namely *Dog Disco*, *Horsebox*, *The Day After Tomorrow*. While I was thrilled to see/hear such faves as "Diddy S...," fans might scoff at the lack of *Mush* material. But if you're looking for great sound quality, good camera work, and a kick-ass live performance, it starts off kinda cold – even missing notes here and there – but it turns into a frenzy. By the midway point of "Not a Day Goes By," the swigging drinks: a perfect showing of punk rock good times. The energy reflected in the band's demeanor at all. Stubbs and co.

and look civil in comparison to the crowd.

As the band enter home stretch, "Heart is Home" brings the audience to a fever pitch and "Andy" is especially powerful because of its subject matter (written about a close friend and ex-bassist who died of AIDS) and shows their respect by completely flipping out. Wrapping it up with three bring-down-the-house songs ("Atmosphere," covers "You Are My Sunshine" and "Hops and Barley"), Leatherface exit the stage and knocking over microphones and stage diving and... whew! What a fucking show. You know you're *singing* after you've left the stage.

As if the Camden Underground show alone isn't enough, *Boat in the Smoke* offers an additional bonus: Chris Wollard even joins in on second guitar for "Not Superstitious." The sonic goodness is delivered and opinions on modern pop punk, resurrecting Leatherface, creatively with awesomeness?

Real punk rock still lives. Pick up *Boat in the Smoke* and experience it.

[www.leatherface.uk.com](http://www.leatherface.uk.com)

[www.punkervision.net](http://www.punkervision.net)

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