

<http://www.scannerzine.com/tvpartydocumentaries09.htm>

If It Ain't Cheap, It Ain't Punk {*Plan-It-X*} Plan-It-X Records is a label out of Bloomington, Indiana and for approximately the last 15 years has released music by the likes of THIS BIKE IS A PIPE BOMB, JAPANOTHER and DEFIANCE, OHIO. This hour-long documentary, which started off as a workshop project, attempts to tell the story of the label.

In fact, as Plan-It-X owner Chris Clavin states, there are a lot of gaps in the actual telling of the label's history due mainly to a lack of decent footage. Instead, the film pivots around the label's own Plan-It-X Fest where, in 2006, the idea of the project's original workshop came to fruition at the Fest's third installment. The Festival runs for six days, frequently being referred to as a 'Punk Rock Summer Camp' with the ideal of community to the fore. That community concept is amplified when it is revealed that the Fest raised \$8,200 that was split between three charities.

There is an over-riding parallel here also to a Woodstock/ Hippie mentality - be it where founder Clavin has a Tom Sawyer comparison loaded onto his shoulders, the plethora of beards on show or ...PIPE BOMB declaring, "...Surrounded by all this amazing beauty and wonderful friends... I'm getting lost in the moment." A lot of those who attended the Festival also share that ideal while simultaneously embracing the DIY Punk aesthetic; that's particularly noted in Clavin's reference to FIFTEEN as a major influence on what Plan-It-X has become both in terms of the music it releases and of the label's political ideals.

Many of those interviewed came over as interesting but specifically Brian of REQUIEM who offered a more Anarcho-influenced perspective, and Ginger Alford (ex-GOOD LUCK and ONE REASON) impressed throughout as both likeable and insightful and offered an excellent observation when she states that it is, "cool to do what you want as this is the only life you have - but it's also the only life with everybody else." Oddly, it was a father/son duo who attended the Festival that, for me, embodied a lot of what Plan-It-X is about; they freely talk about Anarchism and Punk Rock but would no doubt shudder at the idea of attending a Profane Existence Festival or a squat gig in Brixton!

The disc is laden with extras also. First up is 40 minutes of additional interviews focused primarily on genre definitions and road stories. Then you get 50 minutes of live performances with DEFIANCE OHIO, JAPANOTHER, THIS BIKE IS A PIPE BOMB and SOOPHIE NUM SQUAD all standing out. Finally there is 75 minutes of short stories lifted from the film emphasising the sense of autonomy, community and Anarchy but laced with vague middle class principles. It's all wrapped in a stylish digipack with liner notes from Clavin.

As something that represents Plan-It-X Records, this has the lot: the bands, the ethos, the politics, the sense of community, the fun. No matter your favoured Punk subculture, this is well worth checking out for anyone who has a love and a grounding in DIY Punk values. (30.01.11)