



Scanner zine

Larger than life and twice as natural

D.O.A. - Smash The State {*Sudden Death*/ *MVD*} This is a retrospective compilation of live material of Canada's seminal Hardcore Punk band, D.O.A. It dates from 1978 through to 1981 and features the original, classic line-up of Joey Shithead (vocals/guitar), Chuck Biscuits (drums), Randy Rampage (bass) and Dave Gregg (guitar) - that's the line-up responsible for the classic 'Something Better Change' album and 'Hardcore 81' release.

The material is culled from five shows plus a couple of TV shoots. It starts with arguably the best of the shows, a stunner from 1980 filmed at On Broadway in San Francisco. The late Dirk Dirksen introduces the band, which then launches into a scathing 'New Age'. A few songs further and you are treated to a near-perfect blitz of 'Woke Up Screaming'. There's only one camera (but with an incredible, well-focused zoom) and, for the era, superb sound quality. The next show, filmed a year later at the Old Waldorf in San Fran includes a hyper 'Fucked Up Baby'. This is filmed side-on and really highlights what a shit-hot drummer Biscuits was.

The final of the live shows is the Anarchist Anti-Canada Day show from 1978. The band looks incredibly young and Joey is in his finest, obnoxious Punk form spitting on his hand and wiping it in his hair! There's a particularly banal interview, some flag burning and a rather pedestrian performance when compared with those later (although, the version of 'Disco Sucks' here is bitter and blazing). The cops (or 'Bulls' as Joey names them) show up and seem incredibly tolerant when compared with their American counterparts even allowing Biscuits to cuddle one of them! Other features include some incomprehensible backstage footage featuring the band + CIRCLE JERKS and THE LEWD, a couple of TV shoots including 'World War III' that features some super-snappy editing and an interesting news report from 1979 about the 'state of Punk' and D.O.A.

There's over an hour of footage here and, not including that backstage stuff, there is not one minute of throwaway material. The energy and fury with which D.O.A. performed at this stage is simply breath taking. It was incendiary stuff with a heap of movement from Rampage (who, incidentally, looked especially wild-eyed at the Bay Area Mystery show in 81), tight as hell songs and, as stated, powerhouse drumming from Biscuits.

Easily one of the best DVDs of vintage gear that has sprung up of late and one that absolutely *ANY ONE* with an interest in Punk/ Hardcore and the genres' histories really needs to check out. As stated elsewhere on this website, band's like D.O.A. are few and far between these days and this DVD captures the band at its era-defining, insolent best.