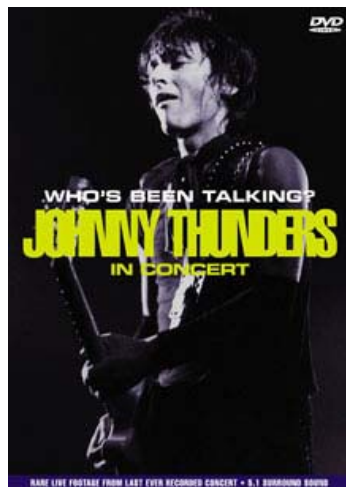


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DVD Review – Who’s Been Talking? Johnny Thunders in Concert

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Directed By - Unknown

MVD

Johnny Thunders gets the full on DVD treatment in the recent MVD release “Who’s Been Talking? Johnny Thunders in Concert.” Captured live at Club Citta in Osaka, Japan on April 3, 1991 (3 short weeks before his death) this is one of the last concerts the legendary Thunders ever performed. Backed by his final road band the Oddballs (Stevie Klasson on guitar, Stuart Kennedy on bass, Jamey Heath on sax, Chris Musto on drums and Alison Gordy on backing vocals) for those who knew and loved him this is a fitting farewell to a musical legend.

Johnny Thunders’ legacy began during the punk/glam rock 1970’s while with “The New York Dolls” and later on his own with “The Heartbreakers.” The demons of drugs and alcohol definitely took their toll on the then 38 year old Thunders as appears on stage here looking like a 50 year old Keith Richards. Playing his guitar half-heartedly and forgetting lyrics to songs he himself wrote, Thunders is clearly not at his musical peak during this concert.

The concert itself plays like a Vegas lounge act. Amidst the standard Thunders fare (Too Much Junkie Business, I Wanna Be Loved, Personality Crisis) are a couple of rock medleys (Hit The Road Jack, I’m Not Your Stepping Stone, Louie Louie, Hang On Sloopy), some instrumental covers (Pipeline, Wipe Out) and some rather laidback and prophetic songs (Sad Vacation, Born To Lose), which would almost seem out of place had he not died shortly after this concert. Backed by The Oddballs, the audio quality of this DVD is excellent. Backing singer Alison Gordy is highlighted in several songs, even taking center stage at one point while Thunders is somewhere offstage doing... whatever Thunders does while offstage.

Thunders’ death in New Orleans in April 1991 is still rife with rumors. Apparently he died of drug-related causes, but was it accidental or the result of foul play? Perhaps the truth will never be known. A text bio by Betty Chienne is included with this DVD, but, unfortunately, it doesn’t shed much light on the subject.

For nostalgia buffs and the curious this is a must see. Although not his best performance, this concert is a testament to a talent that inspired many people to take up the musical gauntlet and run with it.

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By [Grimm Culhane](#)

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