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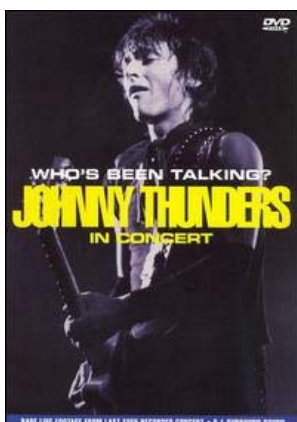
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Who's Been Talking? Johnny Thunders in Concert

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Johnny Thunders



Available On: DVD

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Album

Who's Been Talking? Johnny Thunders in Concert

Release Date

Dec 9, 2003

Label

Import

Type

Video, Live

Genre

Rock

Styles

American Punk
New York Punk
Proto-Punk
Hard Rock
Punk
Rock & Roll

Moods

Trashy
Irreverent
Reckless

AMG Album ID

R 672821

Corrections to this Entry?

Review

by Joe Viglione


Johnny Thunders was always hit or miss in concert; like fellow underground icon **Nico**, he could be brilliant and sublime or utterly boring on-stage depending on what he had injected or absorbed at any given moment. If you happened to have witnessed either artist in both good and bad shape, it was easy to detect when and if either one would have the magic. Now here's the good news: despite the VHS feel to this multi-camera shoot from Club Citta in Osaka, Japan (taped on April 3, 1991 -- yes, the very month he died), Johnny Thunders is very much *on* and rips through 22 songs that sound good and -- dare it be said -- professional. To understand the difference, you have to have seen Thunders when he was, say, unprofessional. Some nights he was toast, but here he is a rock star and is taking his craft seriously. The DVD opens with a solid "In Cold Blood," the **Jimmy Miller**-produced song that launched a new phase of his career in Europe just eight years before his passing. It slips right into a medley including "(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone" and on to about 25 songs over 22 tracks that are a really fabulous, if lo-fi, documentary on this unique but quintessential rock & roll figure. On "Louie, Louie" and "Hang on Sloopy," the most natural of medleys, he is his **Keith Richards** best -- the look, the wardrobe, and the great guitar sound that he didn't have when the **New York Dolls** first played Boston in 1973 and everything was cranked up to 11. A new song entitled "Society" has him strumming the electric, and with the addition of **Jamey Heath's** saxophone the crisp band sounds like **Lou Reed's** mid-'80s ensembles. The tragedy here is that in just 15 years' time from when this was recorded -- when **Iggy Pop's Stooges** and the **New York Dolls** would gain the respectability and massive audience they deserved, his untimely death kept that adulation and appreciation from Thunders himself. Truly a pity. There are many Johnny Thunders videos out there, but this collection of solo material, covers, and one Dolls song, "Personality Crisis," is a keeper despite the blurry and foggy footage and grainy texture. Actually, there's a second bit of **New York Dolls** as Thunders' reinvention of **Bo Diddley's** "Pills" -- "Too Much Junkie Business" -- actually dissolves into a superb "Pills," covered with much of the same abandon as the new-millennium **New York Dolls**, tight and displaying more of a **Rolling Stones**-style presentation. This DVD has lots to offer the Thunders fan and anyone who appreciates life-on-the-edge underground rock & roll. Described as "rare live footage from the last ever recorded concert," the DVD also includes a 12-page biography by **Betty Chienne**. It's a nice testament to a truly twisted life.

Tracks

	Title	Composer	Time
1	In Cold Blood [DVD]		
2	Medley: Hit the Road Jack/(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone [medley]		
3	Blame It on Mom [DVD]		
4	Disappointed [DVD]		
5	I Can Tell [DVD]		
6	Sad Vacation [DVD]		
7	Little Queenie [DVD]		
8	You Can Walk My Dog [DVD]		
9	Pipeline [DVD]		
10	Who's Been Talking? [DVD]		

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11	Cross Roads [DVD]
12	I Can't Go on Without You [DVD]
13	Medley: Louie, Louie/Hang on Sloopy [medley]
14	Society [DVD]
15	Too Much Junkie Business [DVD]
16	Just Another Girl [DVD]
17	So Alone [DVD]
18	Wipe Out [DVD]
19	Personality Crisis [DVD]
20	Gloria [DVD]
21	Born to Lose [DVD]
22	I Wanna Be Loved [DVD]

Releases

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #
2003	DVD	Import	11109
2007	DVD	MVD Visual	4590
2005	DVD	Snapper	155787

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