



- Left of the Dial Magazine

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### [Johnny Thunders/Who's Been Talking?: MVD Video](#)

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Other than Sid Vicious, there's probably no punk icon with as much self-destructive mythology and anemic junkie stardom than Johnny Thunders, who despite his easy, finger snaked technique and genuine persona ended up in the sad mess heap of the universe. This DVD captures him in his later years, but with a fine stride, plowing through several great numbers in front of a delirious Osaka audience, who eat up his sallow swagger and alleyway angst. There's roughly hewn classics like "Louie Louie" and "Steppin' Stone," bluesy ghost-walks, a purposeful stab at his alma matter the New York Dolls ("Personality Crisis") and dog-eared versions of beloved jukebox surf like "Pipeline" and "Wipeout." Though this doesn't pack the pimply punch or troubling torrent of the original Heartbreakers, it does have a sax-man who can blow without being a wind-bagged airball, a voluptuous side-kick and crooner Alison Gordy, and a drummer who ain't no second string lieutenant of rock'n'roll. That being said, the sound is a bit thin at times, and the shots, though woven in a professional style, circa old school 1980's video (like weird flashbacks of Flipside videos), offer diffused, bled colors that end up in a leaky gray of sorts. Still, the parade of songs is well worth the low VHS un-glitter, skin and bones body types gyrating on stage, and the often painful thought of Johnny squandering so much compacted talent into such anomie. For the memory...

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