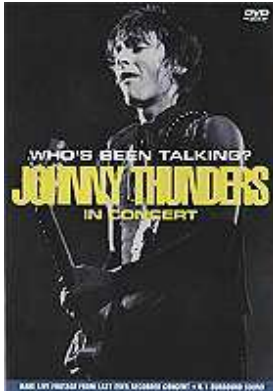


TV Party - T



JOHNNY THUNDERS - Who's Been Talking? {MVD} Recorded on THUNDERS' last ever tour of Japan in 1991, this is reputedly his last ever filmed live shows before his untimely death. It was said THUNDERS was back on-track having beaten the drug problem and, sure enough, the performances here suggest the man was back on-form with still a heap to offer. Of course, New Orleans and the return of the drug problem ceased any further plans. While the music on the DVD is superb stuff, the actual package leaves a little more to be desired.

The show is filmed with several cameras at Club Citta in Osaka on April 3 1991. THUNDERS is accompanied by a full backing band - THE ODD BALLS - which consists of guitarist, bassist, drummer, female vocalist and a blazing saxophonist. As stated, THUNDERS really has it together as he and the band gnaw out opener, 'In Cold Blood'. From there, you get about 20 other tracks including 'Sad Vacation', a great 'Blame It On

Mom', a pacey 'Too Much Junkie Business' which follows one of the highlights, the sedate, retrospective 'Society'. The show finishes on a couple of classics from the 'L.A.M.F' album. This being THUNDERS, there is naturally a few costume changes! The show kicks off with him in a cool $\frac{3}{4}$ length electric blue trench coat kinda thing with tartan dungarees beneath. As the show progresses he dons a leather jacket and cap among others. Only THUNDERS can get away with being so intrinsically rock 'n' roll whilst remaining resolutely Punk Rock! There's a fair bit of drama to the arrangements with THUNDERS orchestrating moments of light and shade. The saxophonist fella trades solos with the guitarists here and there, but is most effective when filling out the music or soloing instead of a guitar. The encores demonstrate the great THUNDERS wit where, due to the general polite quietness of the Japanese audience, THUNDERS and band tip-toe on stage and whispers into his mic. Great stuff not just for THUNDERS obsessives, but also for the casual fan.

The packaging though has a few errors. For starters, of the 22 listed songs on the case, at least four are not included on the DVD - although there is a bonus as 'Too Much Junkie Business' slides into a raucous take on 'Pills' that isn't listed. Toward the end of the show, THUNDERS says something akin to 'Goodnight Tokyo' - THUNDERS' wit I thought until reading the biography at the end that states this was recorded over three shows in Japan! The photo of THUNDERS on the back sleeve is also way out of the era the show was filmed during (a small issue but one that looks a bit tacky).

The biography itself is the only thing in the way of extras and it says little - it's far from insightful but I guess it's a good starting point for the curious.

Ropey packaging and missing songs aside, this is more than worth a watch. I've watched it half-a-dozen times already and get something new out of it each time. The fact THUNDERS is so on-form really does make all the difference. I'm not sure if there really is enough to attract the curious/ new fan, but for die-hards it's pretty much mandatory. Go Johnny go.....