



**Lene Lovich** - *Live From New York at Studio 54*  
(DVD, [MVD Visual](#), Pop/rock)

This DVD features **Lene Lovich** and her band (which includes **Thomas Dolby**) performing at Studio 54 in New York in 1981. Just as we suspected, this video is an odd view. The early 1980s was a weird time in the world of music...punk had punked out...but everyone still wanted to dress up funny and dance to live music. Thus, the widespread saturation of new wave spread like wildfire. Some of the original new wave bands have stood the test of time rather well (early **Talking Heads** and **Let's Active** are both good examples). Other artists like Lene...have kinda gotten lost and/or forgotten over the years. And that is unfortunate...because Ms. Lovich was a lady who was obviously far ahead of her time. That said...her music now sounds quite dated. Studio 54 was packed on this particular night with lots of young people dressed up in very silly looking clothing...but no one looked more silly and obtuse than Lene herself. Although by today's standards Lene's look and sound would be considered extremely tame, in the early 1980s she was a bizarre spectacle. When she's at her best during this concert, Lovich screeches like a bird and comes across as a haunting seductress. When she's at her worst...she comes off like some sort of displaced freaked out polka lady on acid. Some of these songs still sound strong ("Too Tender (To Touch)," "Angels," "Bird Song") while others now sound rather ridiculous ("Say When," "New Toy," "One in a Million"). We can honestly say that we never have the urge to spin Lovich's first two albums anymore (although there are some good songs on them)...but looking back, it is intriguing to consider how many young ladies she must have influenced. For a very brief point in time (*before her involvement with P.E.T.A. that seemed to nail the coffin shut on her short career*), Lene Lovich was the reigning queen of bizarre new wave pop. From a historical viewpoint, this DVD is essential. From a purely musical perspective...well, let's just say that this effectively captures the overall mood of 1981... (Rating: 4+++)

