

[Dead Boys - Return Of The Living Dead Boys](#)

DVD released: March 18, 2008.

Approximate running time: 50 Minutes

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 Fullscreen

Rating: NR

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound

DVD Release: MVD

Region Coding: Region 0 NTSC

Retail Price: \$14.95



Reviewed by:

Ian Jane on March 18, 2008.

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The Film

On Halloween night in 1986, the Dead Boys reformed for one night to play at The Ritz in New York City (after breaking up in 1979). While the band originally formed in Ohio in the mid-seventies, it was in New York where they found an audience and went on to become one of the most important American punk bands of the era and of all time. Though Batorts passed away in 1990, the band's influence is still felt today and it becomes very apparent while watching this performance just how important they were not only while they were together in the late seventies but even today, decades later.

After an introduction from none other than Joey Ramone, who talks about how excited he is to be seeing a Dead Boys reunion, the band launches into Sonic Reducer which starts the set off nicely. What you'll notice as soon as they hit the stage is how glammed out Stiv Batorts looks here (complete with what appear to be black leather chaps!) with his mop of black hair all teased out like he's auditioning for The New York Dolls or something, or maybe an eighties hair metal band. He looks like he could be in L.A. Gunns! Goofy outfit aside, Batorts sounds great here as does the rest of the band, who aren't dressed nearly as ridiculously as their frontman, who is completely naked with his dick tucked between his legs by the end of the show!

There's a lot of energy captured here, both on stage and in front of it. While the band tears through their set members of the audience get up on stage and dance around and everyone seems to be having a good time and The Dead Boys play really well here, even when they



launch into a couple of cover tracks later in the set where Cheetah Chrome can be seen essentially attacking his guitar and playing off of Bators' enthusiasm.

The complete track listing? Sonic Reducer/All This And More/Caught With The Meat In Your Mouth/Calling On You/I Won't Look Back/What Love Is/I Need Lunch/Ain't Nothing To Do/Down In Flames/Son Of Sam/Detention Home/3rd Generation Nation/Tell Me/Search And Destroy/Flamethrower Love/High Tension Wire/Sonic Reducer



Video

2/5

Shot on a camcorder at the back of The Ritz, this presentation isn't exactly sterling, in fact, it's rough. It's murky, it's hard to see exactly what's going on during certain shots and there isn't much in the way of detail at all, it's very soft. That said, if you're at all familiar with how this type of material has always looked, that's not going to bother you too much. Anyone expecting a pristine picture just doesn't understand how this material was created in the first place. It wasn't ever intended to show up on DVD as DVD didn't exist - it's simply a record of a show and as such, it's fine in this form.



Audio

3/5

Audio options are Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo and Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound, the only differences being that the 5.1 track spreads out the audience and background noise a little bit. Aside from that, there's not much difference between the two mixes. The audio fares noticeably better than the video. The levels are well balanced and there isn't much in the way of hiss or distortion to complain about. For an older, amateur recording this isn't bad at all.

Extras

2.5/5

MVD has supplied menus and song selection but the real bonus is an interview with Stiv Bators and Frank Secich from a 1980 television show called **Good Morning Youngstown** (15:24)! The video has been sourced from a dupey looking VHS tape (it's in REALLY rough shape) but that doesn't really matter, it's pretty cool to just see it here in the first place. After an introduction from some guy in a suit with an afro we launch into the **Sonic Reducer** video, which mixes live footage of the band with some audience reaction shots and some old archival Nazi rally clips and WWII combat footage and some footage of some old video games.

From there we get down to the interview where they discuss how people react to the band and to Bators in particular and they talk about Frank's career with the band. From there, they talk about the origins of punk rock and about the English Mod revival and how the Mod's are clashing with with Skinheads and the National Front. From there they discuss a People Magazine piece on the Dead Boys and how John Belushi sat in and played drums with the band when they played on his birthday at the Whiskey in Los Angeles. From there they talk about the future of the band and what they're up to, as well as how the scene has changed over the years, and the pressures of the record industry.



Overall

3/5

While the quality is far from perfect and shows its age, fans will enjoy having a complete show in their collection and the inclusion of the TV interview is a nice bonus. Dead Boys fans will definitely enjoy this release.

Film Rating

Director: N/A

Writer: N/A

Released: 1986

Cast: The Dead Boys

DVD Rating

Film: ★★★★★

Video: ★★

Audio: ★★★

Extras: ★★

Overall: ★★★

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