

SCANNERZINE

TSOL

sound, the presence and the willingness to experiment (ultimately leading to the simply hideous Hair Metal period of 'Revenge' etc). This DVD stems from when the band had partially shed its original Punk approach and brought in keyboard player Greg Kuehn to head in a vaguely Gothic sounding direction with the 'Beneath The Shadows' album and 'Weathered Statues' EP.

The main show is taken from the *Flipside* videos and was recorded in 1983 at an art college in broad daylight. Jack Grisham is theatrical as ever, dressed in an outfit more becoming of the New Romantic scene with baggy black pants, hat and an embroidered waistcoat. It starts well, but by the second song the camera has moved to the side of the stage - to the detriment of the audio quality. The band's popular status isn't really evident here (maybe due to the environs) as most appear a bit bemused and the Punks don't really start slamming around until 'Superficial Love'. 'Code Blue' sees things really pick up and other highlights include 'Forever Old' and 'Man And Machine'. The band don't actually look very comfortable although they do exude attitude. There's an interview with Jack after with talk of evading cops, getting spat in the eye by a huge glob of snot and how he finds stage diving funny if someone gets hurt.

The other live footage is from a Target Video of the same year (apparently), although Kuehn is absent and the sound is much harder (although seemingly overdubbed) with a crowd slamming and indulging in a decent circle pit.

Extras include a 40+ minute interview with Jack and guitarist Ron Emory (where, trivia fans, they are joined by Pat Brown of VANDALS song fame!). Issues discussed range from pay-to-play venues; accusations of selling out (even though the band played a heap of freebies and Jack was still living with his Mom); that all English bands are 'arseholes' (with BAUHAUS in particular being called 'dicks') that sing about 3-million unemployed; how happy they are to live in America; Posh Boy Recs get a good slagging and a confession from Jack that he bashed Posh Boy himself; the limits of HC and its small-minded mentality. Amidst the waffle, it's an interesting interview. There's also a 2007 clip of the band live doing 'Abolish Government' that's hilarious. Jack calls a young Punk back to the stage for doing such a girly stagedive. Finally, there are a couple of readings by Jack from his forthcoming book, 'An American Savage Reformed', which are both dramatic and alarming in their intensity.

The negatives come in the packing. There's no booklet, no indication of the venues where the shows were recorded, poor old Greg Kuehn doesn't even warrant a mention and the track listing is incorrect.

Those looking for a high-quality, high definition recording are gonna be disappointed. Hell, this was part of the original *Flipside* Video Series filmed on nothing more than a camcorder. Fans of old though (who may even have seen the *Flipside* video before) will lap this up and the bonus of the interviews really adds a sense of intimacy to the scary world of the original T.S.O.L.