



- Left of the Dial Magazine

July 28, 2009

[Punk in England/Documentary: MVD Video](#)

Filed under: [Uncategorized](#) — leftofthedialmag @ 11:30 am



Though not quite as confrontational and vitriolic as Punk in London, Wolfgang Buld once again wields an edgy, keen, and acute German eye for action during the transformational period of punk as it ebbed, flowed, cracked, burst, and dissolved into ska, mod, and post-punk. Whereas the first film plunged deep into the heart of ennui, dystopian darkness, and sonic defoliation as each band tried to tear down clichés and kick start their careers from ‘year zero,’ this film captures the “mature” stages of the Jam and the Clash as they grope with new forms and pop-smattered success, though they lose none of their wit and disgust either. “We’ve been doing this for four years,” argues Joe Strummer in a half-shredded voice, so if they didn’t change or mutate, they’d be consider dumb and pathetic. The mod section proves that Secret Affair had more than a little Northern Soul up their sleeve and very little Who crunch and swagger. Bob Geldof of the Boomtown Rats is typically self-centered and culturally observant at the same time, whereas some of the best footage features the young hustlers Madness and Specials forging their rock steady, dance-aholic, quirky post-punk baptism. The sound is superb, the action tense and titillating, even when Ian Dury pops up (OK, I’ve never been a fan). However, even more rapturous is the short film Women in Rock, which depicts uber-metal maidens Girlschool practicing their limber and fine-honed leathery chops and the brilliant, brittle Siouxsie and the Banshees howling into the neon void. Plus, the gals from the Slits bounce around stages and taxis, giving more than a restless impression that their jitters and squiggly, hiccuping, and ethno-punk musique was not mere masking. This bonus film alone is well worth the investment in punk history.

No Comments [»](#)

No comments yet.

[RSS feed for comments on this post.](#) [TrackBack URI](#)

Leave a comment

Name (required)

E-Mail (required)

Website