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Legendary NW rock band D.O.A. release DVD autobiography



Tuesday, September 1, 2009
by [Chris Estey](#)

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When old school Seattle punk-metal icon Duff McKagan wrote about punk rock at the *Seattle Weekly* a couple of weeks ago, he gave a little list of bands he considers essential to the canon. Though it wasn't specifically numerical in importance, the phenomenon-by-response stack of heroes began with The Ramones (good choice), then The Clash (a little more arguable, but who can resist?), and then -- **D.O.A.**

To quote McKagan:

"D.O.A., *Something Better Change*: If you grew up in the Northwest in the late '70s or early '80s, D.O.A. were a larger-than-life example of how brilliant a live rock band should be. They were as important as any band in history, as far as I'm concerned."

The actual word "hardcore" as applied to latter period North American punk rock is most likely taken from a D.O.A. album title -- *Hardcore '81*. Note the year of its release, and that there really wasn't a musical genre with that name before D.O.A. nailed their hard, fast, no compromise sound.

D.O.A. released *The Men Of Action* 30th Anniversary DVD this month, and it is a glorious memento of possibly the world's most underrated rock band. This collection of interviews and performance lips shows how D.O.A. toured as relentlessly as Black Flag ever did, and for far longer; they have an oeuvre of strong yet spastic songs like "World War 3," "Fuck You," "Fucked Up Ronnie," and others that transcend the underdog politics of their time and milieu; and their



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