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Album Review: The Buzzcocks - What Do I Get?

The CD+DVD package *What Do I Get?* documents the reunited **Buzzcocks** on a live date at Shepherds Bush Empire in 2003. And if the title is a question, the answer is simple: a barrage of ear-bashing punk, catchy melodies played at amphetamine-fueled speed before an adoring, pogo-ing crowd.

The hits are all here, and while the DVD shows that original Buzzcocks **Pete Shelley** and **Steve Diggle** (both on guitar) have aged a bit since the heyday of 1977's "Orgasm Addict," to the ears they haven't changed much. The songs tumble into one another a la **The Ramones**, but there's a ferocity (and lack of those Noo Yawkers' cartoonish element) and sense of danger to these songs. Even when they're singing about love(!), Shelley and Diggle convey menace. While **John (Rotten) Lydon** felt compelled to let us know "We mean it, man," sincerity is *never* in question with the Buzzcocks.

Depending on one's constitution, this live set will wind you up or leave you drained. Or, quite possibly, both. As edited on both the album and the audiovisual document, the band doesn't leave enough time between songs

