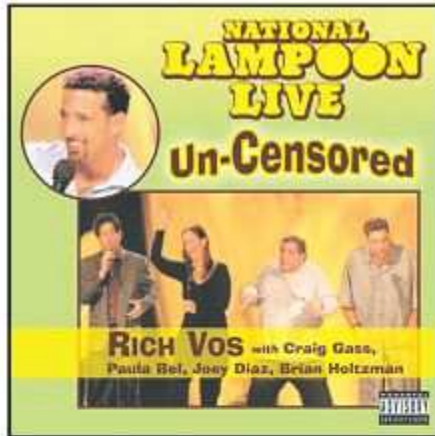


# In Tune

The Daily News

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009



**VARIOUS ARTISTS,** “National Lampoon Live: Un-Censored” (Uproar/MVD Audio) ☆☆ — Six weeks or so ago, I reviewed an installment in the “National Lampoon Live” series that featured funnyman Frank Calliando and a handful of lesser-known comics. Though some of the material was dated, it was a pretty funny record. I fully expected to be entertained by this edi-

tion of “National Lampoon Live,” but found myself cringing rather than laughing.

Comedians Rich Vos, Paula Bel, Joey Diaz and Brian Holtzman rely far too much on race, religion and homosexual jokes in their attempts to get laughs. And while I’m no prude, the material (especially from Vos, Diaz and Andrew Dice Clay-wannabe Holtzman) seemed raunchy just for raunchiness sake. That’s not funny, it’s lazy. Bel is marginally better, save for unfunny (and uncomfortable) rant about gay men and rape.

Craig Gass, an adept impressionist, is the bright spot here. His takes on Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons of Kiss (two guys I’ve never heard impressions of before) are spot-on and funny, as are riffs on Christopher Walken, Sean Connery and Adam Sandler. Less effective are his Al Pacino and Owen Wilson impressions.

I guess this kind of “uncensored” comedy appeals to some, but it’s not a show I have any interest in hearing again. (JS)