

The Daily News, Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Old-school rappers Flav, Blow drop concert DVD



FLAVOR FLAV, "Flavor Flav Live in Concert" (Vaporize/ABC/MVD Visual) ★★★ — To say Flavor Flav is a hip-hop star is like saying Michael Jordan is a good basketball player. The legendary hype man of super group Public Enemy still is hitting the stage and letting people know what time it is with his trademark clocks, and he still sees the world in a different light through his space-aged sunglasses.

Known for an in-your-face style and a variety of political tracks, Flav is still entertaining and as high-energy as ever, but he now is more in the spotlight as a lyricist, unlike his Public Enemy days when he could rely on the skills of Chuck D and just jump around on stage to encourage audience participation, and get the message across while not concerning himself so much with the content.

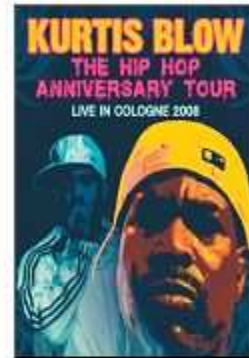
He gets the masses going with a chant of "Make love (expletive) war," and has a few choice words for former President George W. Bush.

Flav does his best Ashlee Simpson lip-sync work for "Hot 1," and performs a few tracks from his solo efforts such as "Too Much Posse," and new tracks like "Wonder Why," which is a laid back track about how Flav views the world today. Another solid track is "Can't Do Nothing 4 You."

Those tracks and more, plus the scratching of renowned DJ Lloyd make this a good get, but not something you need to wait outside the store for like it's a Black Friday special.

There is nothing really disappointing about the DVD, but there's no spectacular moments either. His VH1 shows, such as "Flavor of Love," are about as entertaining as this. Public Enemy fans will be OK with this effort, and those who only know Flav

from his television life will get somewhat of an understanding about why we like the skinny dancing fool who often wears a Viking hat and a giant time piece around his neck. Parcretion is advised due to strong language. (Michael DiV)



KURTIS BLOW, "The Hip Hop Anniversary Tour: Live in Cologne 2008" (Vaporize/ABC/MVD Visual) ★★★ — One thing's for sure: hip-hop would not be what it is today without Harlem's Curtis Walker, the world over as Kurtis Blow. He can get the crowd rocking, as evidenced by this DVD of a 2008 performance in Cologne, Germany.

A force in the hip-hop industry for more than 35 years, experience-wise, he was one of the first commercially successful rappers and one of the first to sign to a major label. You couldn't listen to a rap radio station in the 1980s without hearing one of his songs.

Presently, the hip-hop game is dominated by the likes of Jay-Z, Kanye West, and T.I., of whom credit Blow as an influence despite their very different styles. Still, it's hard to tell if this DVD will be palatable to the under-22 crowd.

"Party Time" and "Basketball" obviously are on the list, as is "The Breaks," which was included on popular video compilations such as "Grand Theft Auto Vice City" and "Scarface: The World Is Yours" in recent years. The DVD track features a few dancers, including one with a helmet whose routine was so good that he should not have been able to see straight when he came over.

Blow's style is more about party, positives and grooving than it is about drugs, money and women. As he tells his German audience, "We don't wanna kill anybody. It's not about disrespecting the ladies and cursing on the microphone, and the blind materialism and all the stuff you see and hear on the radio." (It's real official old school hip-hop.)

Before "If I Ruled The World," Blow's last hit song, a homage to other old school legends such as Flavor Flav and Run-DMC. (MD)

hoyt's 3115 Walnut St., Christy Park
again 412-664-4668
DAILY LUNCHEON SPECIALS