

<http://www.scannerzine.com/tvpartyt2009.htm>

### **TV SMITH AND THE BORED TEENAGERS - Crossing The Red Sea Live At The 100 Club**

{WDF} Filmed in April 2007 to celebrate 30 years since the original, classic ADVERTS album was released, this one-off show sees ADVERTS mentor TV SMITH backed by Spanish band, LOS QUATTROS. It's recorded at the old Punk stamping ground of The 100 Club, filmed on at least four cameras, and coincides with TV's 51st birthday. I shouldn't need to tell you that 'Crossing...' stands as one of the finest UK Punk albums ever. It's an intelligent album that bristles with energy and anger and, most importantly, classic songs that sound as vital today as they did in 1977. Of course, the show starts as the album does with 'One Chord Wonders'. Although TV now has a crop of grey hair that would not look out of place in any Conservative Club, he retains his malicious snarl and it is more than evident as the song kicks in. Gotta say, it's maybe the one weak song of the whole show as the band don't quite hit the mark. For whatever reason, the song sounds a little forced. The song ends with a wry, knowing smile from TV. Then there's no holding back.

Each successive song is executed with passion and attitude - fitting for songs of such classic stature. 'New Church' is resplendent, laced with a violent, treacherous urgency; the opening of 'Bombsite Boy' is extended building tension before the crescendo of the song is delivered in nothing short of incendiary style while album closer 'Great British Mistake' is simply explosive and remains the highlight of this show as it is on the original album. You then get five encores of b-sides and non-album tracks with 'We Who Wait' being sublime - the song always had enough quality to have fitted on the original album instead of reserved as a humble b-side. Of course, 'Gary Gilmore's Eyes' is a crowd pleaser while the inclusion of 'Good Times Are Back' from TV's solo career is the perfect closer as it fits, both sonically and lyrically, with 'Crossing...' but rings with a 21st Century relevance. Throughout the show, TV says little between songs but what is said is pointed, effective and, ultimately, genuine.

Extras come in the form of an interview with QUATTROS bassist Jonathan Vidal and a solo TV show recorded at The Bull and Gate in 2006. The TV show is filmed on a single camera and features a couple of ADVERTS songs but the real highlight is 'Not In My Name' that sees TV angry and spitting bile with a vehemence that many of today's Punk Rock 'stars' can but dream of.

It really is a mark of the original album that the songs still sound incredibly fresh and, tragically, it's a black mark on the world at large that the lyrics are still so relevant. It's an accreditation of TV as a musician also to see him reveling in the power of these songs; many may have felt inhibited due to the gravity these songs have grown to possess during the last 30 years, or over acted the whole thing to come on like a caricature of his former self (ever get the feeling you've been cheated?) - but no. Tim treats these songs - HIS songs - with dignity and presides over them with all the vivacity he no doubt did when he had no time to be 21. Classic stuff indeed. (06.11.09)

- Steve Scanner