

Donovan

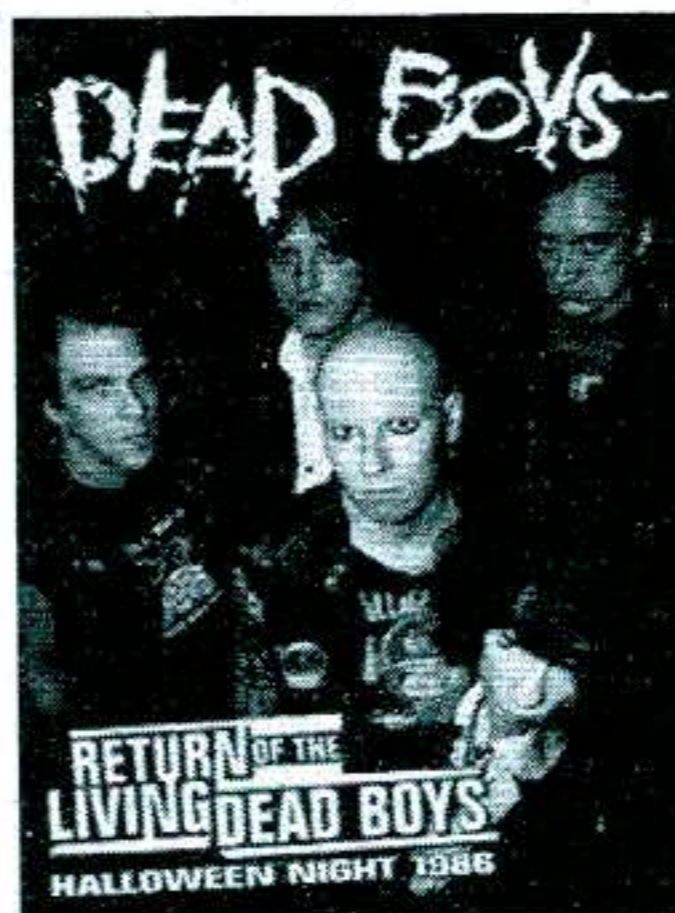
The Donovan Concert Live in L.A.
MVD Visual

British pop superstar singer-songwriters Donovan Leitch has written and performed some of the finest music of his generation. This concert, captured live at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood in January 2007, is testament to that statement. David Lynch provides a brief introduction (the concert was a benefit for the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-based Education and World Peace) which is accompanied by a mini-montage of footage of Donovan's career, and then the show began. Accompanied by bassist Tom Mansi and percussionist Stewart Lawrence, Donovan rolled through all his best—"There is a Mountain," "Catch the Wind," "Colours," "Try for the Sun" and "Happiness Runs." He recounted his career with mystically-tinged tales of encounters with The Beatles and other peers in between songs, cross-legged on the dais as he played acoustic guitar...is this 1966? When he played Buffy St. Marie's "Universal Soldier," I was struck by what a relevant and timeless war protest song it is, especially today. "Jennifer Juniper" and "Dream" followed (on the latter Leitch backed his daughter, Astrella Celeste). "Sunshine Superman," "Season of the Witch" and "Hurdy Gurdy Man" came before the concert's end, where he was again joined by his daughter and Mike Love of The Beach Boys on "I'll Be Yellow." (The Beatles, Love and Donovan were instrumental in bringing transcendental meditation to the unenlightened Western culture.) There are four more songs on the bonus track section: "Lalena," "Sand and Foam (Mexico)," "There is an Ocean" and "The Illusion," from his new CD, *Ritual Groove*. -CM

Dead Boys

Return of the Living Dead Boys
MVD Visual

Guess who my new best friend I never met is? Clint, of MVD Visual and Audio, who is totally hooking me up with the coolest releases. *Return of the Living Dead Boys* is a DVD that features footage of The Dead Boys' 1986 Halloween reunion concert in NYC, beginning with an intro from Joey Ramone, and then the onslaught of Dead Boys' tunes commences! Stiv Bators, Cheetah Chrome, Jimmy Zero, Jeff Magnum and Johnny Blitz still had it in '86, and the ferocity of the performance proves it. Obviously a one camera shoot, sometimes the video scrambles and skips, but how punk is that? You get to see Bators twisting, dropping and flailing himself all over the stage, so isn't that enough? The audio is pretty decent quality, and all the hits are here-- "Sonic Reducer" (twice, as the intro song and then again at the end,



where Stiv stripteasingly peels his pants down and does a tuck), "I Need Lunch," "What Love Is," "Flamethrower Love," a killer version of The Stooge's "Search and Destroy"... 17 Dead Boys songs are delivered at speeding demon pace... yeah! Also included on the DVD is a superrare video for "Sonic Reducer" and interview footage of Bators from 1980 for "Good Morning Youngstown" (Ohio) which is quite amusing. Notable in the video are the stage diving freaks but perhaps the biggest freak of all is the gargantuan mulletted stage security guy, who looks miffed every time he appears on screen. Worth every second of your precious time, young "punks" need to watch this and see how it's supposed to be done.-CM



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