

GANG OF FOUR To Shred TLA 10/03/05



On Monday October 3rd, one of the most influential "post-punk" bands from the late 70s - early 80s will be tearing up the stage at the TLA in support of their new CD, RETURN THE GIFT, which drops on Oct. 11th. That band is GANG OF FOUR. The Red Hot Chili Peppers, U2, REM, Helmet, INXS, Korn and Franz Ferdinand are a few of the many bands that cite Gang Of Four as a major influence in their sound. The original lineup of the Gang Of Four went into the studio earlier this year after not being in the same room together for 23 years. The product was RETURN THE GIFT. These are songs that the original lineup re-recorded truer to how they sound live, versus what a producer or label wanted them to sound like. The raw crunchiness isn't there that was so prominent on Entertainment or Solid Gold, their first two albums. But, when listening to it you hear the maturity and growth of the band, even though, they have not played together as the original four in 23 years. When speaking with drummer Hugo Burnham, I asked him how they chose the songs to redo, and he told me that they went through all of the material that the original four recorded and chose to re-approach the slightly more adventurous songs that were more sonically and rhythmically challenging. "That was the essence of what Gang Of Four was, to be more challenging." The quality of the recording is excellent. The band sounds as if they have not taken a 23 year sabbatical. The songs that stand out to me on RETURN THE GIFT are Anthrax (their first single), Damaged Goods, Not Great Men, To Hell With Poverty, Capital and Paralyzed. They are done so well and according to Hugo, Jon's voice is better and stronger now, and he hadn't sung in many years. As a fan of music I highly recommend RETURN THE GIFT. It's one of those CD's that you should check out, because, not only is it great, the Gang Of Four has impacted and helped shape the direction of alternative music over the last 25 years. When I asked Hugo what can the fans expect at their live show? He told me, "Expect loud and to be dancing a lot." And, if you haven't seen them before, be ready to be blown away. I am looking forward to being blown away on October 3rd when they play the TLA. See you there.

Signing off,
Markus
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