

I found my own copy of that album 4 years later at a shop in EVARISTON, IL, & kept it for a long time - it made the trip to SF. where I ended up selling it (8 other items) to pay rent & utilities at a particularly dire time in my life. Now, in Lawrence. I find it again (well, a CD - times have changed; and finally an answer as to what the Revillos were.

Scotland's contribution to punk!



## Rezillos

Left to right are: Jo Callis, Eugene Reynolds, Angel Patterson, Simon Templar and Faye Fife

Can't Stand the Rezillos is the name of the original album, & the CD which adds a subheading 'The (Almost) Complete Rezillos' - the disc adds tracks from their farewell concert recording, Mission Accomplished... But The Beat Goes On and 2 sides from one of their UK singles, as well as some informative notes about the Rezillos by one Ira Robbins. As to where they fit in the scheme of things, I refer to the quote by J Mascis in the liner notes: "Are they punk? Are they New Wave? Hey, they're both!" imagine a Scottish combination of the B-52's & *The Cramps* fueled on speed & with some of the best bass playing ever recorded & you've got the Rezillos.

The band started as a lark by several art students at Edinburgh Art College in 1975. Led by 'Eugene Reynolds', 'Fay Fife' & Jo Callis, they emerged as The Rezillos a year later, when Punk exploded in Britain. They got popular, which led to New York based Sire Records to sign them, the first UK band they did sign, and to record Can't Stand The Rezillos. The album is loaded with great songs - they'd do covers; along with the aforementioned "Fleetwood Mac" tune, they recorded versions of 'Glad All Over' & 'I Like It', and their own songs (well, mostly Callis', who did the majority of songwriting). 'I Can't Stand My Baby', 'Top Of The Pops', 'Cold Wars', 'Flying Saucer Attack' - all high energy & fun.

Like all things, it didn't last - Reynolds & Fife had the concept but Callis wrote the songs & they were pulling in different directions. The bassist, William Mysterious, departed & was replaced by one 'Simon Templar'; a killer single was released with the new lineup, 'Destination Venus' b/w 'Mystery' Attraction, then the band broke up - but not without a farewell concert in Glasgow, which Mission Accomplished... documents. The show brought back previous members & proves that they were a killer live act - there are live versions of some songs on Can't Stand... more new songs, 'Thunderbirds Are Go!', 'Teen Beat', 'Culture Shock' & favorite covers, 'Land of 1000 Dances' & 'Ballroom Blitz' among them.



Faye Fife and Eugene Reynolds

The Rezillos went out with a bang - Jo Callis became a member of Human League (and co-wrote their place in immortality, 'Don't You Want Me?'), while Reynolds & Fife went on to form *The Revillos!* After Sire Records let them out of their contracts, with the provision that they not use the name, "Rezillos". Reynolds & Fife jumped over to Virgin Records, who funded them to start a new label, *Snatzo*, distributed by DinDisc. They found a drummer, Rocky Rhythm (actually Reynolds' brother): ended up with a revolving door of guitarists & bassists: got their own backup singers. The Revettes and did a buttload of singles & two albums, Rev-Up! and Attack of the Giant Revillos. & a couple of U.S. tours before packing it in in 1985. The only item I had seen was a 12" single of "Midnight" & very little else. When I got the Rezillos disc, I'd gotten curious again about the Revillos & how much they differed (if at all) from the original Rezillos. Modern technology & the greedy need for marketable product has made a lot of stuff available. & the guys at Love Garden managed to round up two discs, Motorbike Beat & Attack...