



Artist:

Various Artists

Title:

England's Dreaming

March

Compilations are great. Obviously not all of them, but some of them are majestic. I'm ignoring all those chart 2005 and chillout 57 compilations that contribute very little, but some of the others, generally the ones that don't get any TV advertising have turned me onto some great music I might well have otherwise missed.

One label is excellent at this. It's a label called Trikont - a German label and they kick arse in the field of compilations. This compilation, England's Dreaming, put together by Jon Savage, author of a book by the same name, takes in the period of musical history from 1976 to 1979, namely Punk.

While not every track here is strictly Punk, it's all in that vain. Some tracks lead into Punk and some point to a new age after Punk, but one thing that they have in common are they are all fast and loud. As a collection of Punk (ish music) it's on first glance odd as there are no Sex Pistols or Clash numbers. This though on reflection is a good thing as everyone knows their output very well and inclusion of records by those bands might have forced out tracks by The Germs or The Urinals, and that would have been a travesty.

From the tuneful trashy music of The Adverts to the raw carnage of The Electric Eels, this album has it all. Did I mention that there's a Devo live track as well!

This is what Trikont do so well; include great tracks that you have never heard before by great bands that you've never heard of. Compilations should be a learning instrument, teaching everyone about great music they don't know, not making a collection that anyone could compile with the aid of a CD burner and iTunes.

Charlie Gower