

Disband***Disband***

Primary Information CD

Disband were a New York feminist art performance group, chanting, stomping and writhing their way from 1978–82 from the US to Italy. There would have been a UK tour, too, but the vigilant British Immigration Department deported Ilona Granet. Other members included Daile Kaplan (from Rhys Chatham's *Gynaecologists*), Barbara Ess (Glen Branca's *The Static*), Ingrid Sischy (editor of *Artforum* magazine) and Martha Wilson (founder of the Franklin Furnace performance art venue). This was a defiantly non-instrumental girl group, apart from the pots and pans bashing out a backing to "Rebel", and the tracks collected on *Primary Information* are a cappella poems and rants. There are satires on the art scene, verging on stand-up comedy ("Fashions", "The End"), provocative routines about sex ("Look At My Dick", "Hey Baby"), and political comment, including "Missiles And Pistols" about early 80s meddling in Afghanistan.

"I'm On The Winning Side" is one of several tracks that clearly featured some breathless, leaping dance routine, and "Hey Baby" sounds like the group are soliciting their way round the entire audience. These are live performance tapes – the group never released an album in its lifetime – and it's a shame the songs have been so tightly edited as to exclude most of the messy audience response around them. The *Primary Information* website promises half an hour of Disband performance video, though sadly it proved inaccessible. This is an interesting document, full of verve and nerve. There's no No Wave screaming as such, but plenty of attitude. For example, "Perry Como", an obscene ditty which concludes: "*Tweak my tits, take me some place with palm trees.*"

Clive Bell