

## The Artwork and What Inspired It- 'Dookie' by Green Day

'If you can say the word 'dookie,' you can keep in touch with the child within. I've always thought that's part of our success; we are immature.' (Mike Dirnt, Green Day)

Displaying a cartoonish explosion of crap tossing K9s, pitchfork wielding pumpkin men and Elvis impersonators, the 'Dookie' album cover at first glance seems kind of stupid. But that could not be further from the truth. What I love about this album cover is that it doesn't outright state that it is set in the East Bay, but from studying Green Day's inspiration, it so obviously is. The cover features an onslaught of Telegraph Avenue regulars like Murray Bowles, who documented the frenzy of the punk and ska bands that performed at The Gilman, 'The Twisted Dog Sisters,' a group of girls from Oakland and 'The Fritter Fat Boy' a real-life cop of the area. A homespun work of art, 'Dookie' places its grassroots community at the centre of its ethos, manifesting a scene that is immature but rich in personality.

If we look at Green Day themselves, they perfectly represent this idea. Swinging with the best of them in the deeply thoughtful and emotionally engaging, post-heavy metal landscape of early 90s rock, the shaggy burnouts were complete underdogs. This was never more obvious than when Green Day played at Woodstock '94, not long after Dookie's release. Competing with a crowd of critical Aerosmith and Metallica aficionados, Green Day were pelted with 'dookie.' Literally. An otherwise career ending embarrassment, the band were adamant that they would make an impression. The punk kids fought back, catapulting the squander back at their antagonists.

Although Armstrong, Dirnt and Cool eventually had to ditch the Woodstock stage (after about 15 minutes of war), their erratic foolishness seemed to have earned the respect of their bandana adopting critics, cementing the band with an acute likeability that they would hold on to for years to come. The 'Dookie' album cover even highlights the band's love-hate reception among the 'more cathartic' metallically inclined of the era, parading honourable depictions of Angus Young from AC/DC as well as 'The Woman in Black' from Black Sabbath's self-titled 1970 debut.

Richie Bucher, 'Dookie's' album cover artist, did a remarkable job of visualising a term that literally means 'liquid shit' in the loveliest and most expressive way. 'Dookie' has become an all-time teenage entrapment classic that marries its unseriousness with its seriousness confidently and candidly and Bucher's contribution in this effort is undeniable.

**FUN FACT:** The album's hazy underside shows an obscured mass of Green Day fans but originally also featured Ernie from Sesame Street. The mischievous troublemaker was later removed from the

cover, but its original version still appears frequently in secondhand vinyl and CD shops. Do you have the Ernie edition?

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