



The Punk Syndrome

A poignant, mostly observational documentary about the quartet of disabled musicians, *The Punk Syndrome* (Kärkkäinen and Passi, 2012) is a prime showcase for the Finnish punk band Pertti Kurikka's Name Day. (Check them out online here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmcLR6YOco0>). Their songs have a real punk style, with lyrics about wanting respect and dignity as well as "normalcy." Their off-stage moments are "punk" as well—from episodes of in-fighting between bandmates Kari (the lead singer) and Sami (the bassist) to some inappropriate behavior as when Pertti, the band's guitarist needs to change his underpants before going on stage. But most of *The Punk Syndrome* focuses on the members grappling with their daily lives and loves. There is an amusing scene at a pedicure salon, as well as serious discussions about the guys living on their own, and a heartrending moment when Toni (the drummer) is rejected by a girl he loves. *The Punk Syndrome* provides a tender portrait of these musicians, but it's best as a showcase for their terrific music, which along with the band and this film, deserves to be embraced.