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Pixies influence all off camera

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As rock 'n' roll survival stories go, the Pixies are particularly cheering.

Beloved by a hardy cult and ignored by the mainstream during their 1986 to 1993 heyday, the noisy foursome from Boston laid down the floor plan for alterna-rock that Nirvana and other bands would sell to the masses like processed cheese.

So by the time the inevitable reunion rolled around in 2004, the shows sold out instantly, and audiences were reverent, loud and surprisingly young.

It's the rare happy rock 'n' roll ending, but "loudQUIETloud: A Film About the Pixies" does next to nothing with it. Directed by Steven Cantor and Matthew Galkin, the 85-minute documentary takes a fly-on-the-wall approach, providing little context, few insights and not enough music.

There's irony in the fact that these former firebrands are now (mostly) sober family folk, with cute kids they talk to from the road via iCamera.

Other ironies seem to pass by unnoticed. The directors talk to a sweet, geeky teenage girl who idolizes the group and is thrilled to meet them after a show. That she's separated from the Pixies by a chain-link fence (before they climb into their limo) says all sorts of accidentally profound things about alt-rock.

"loudQUIETloud" is too much the fan document to spoil the fun with larger surmises. Fans might prefer the recently released concert DVD "Pixies: Live at the Paradise in Boston" to this tepid behind-the-scenes experience.-- The Boston Globe

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