



**BRING ME  
THE HEAD  
OF GENE SISKEL  
CAROLYN KEDDY**

X-Ray Visions does the obscure, nostalgia documentary the correct way. The X-Ray Café was an all-ages music venue in Portland, OR operating from 1989-1994. It began as a pizza place The UFO Café owner allowed some musicians to book bands there to get people into to buy pizza. The owner wasn't paying his rent so the musicians took over the lease and re-opened it as the X-Ray Café. There was an open attitude of allowing anyone the shot at stardom, so many creative types played at the club. Bigger and soon to be really big bands played there too. There was a clubhouse feel. This documentary captures that feeling. It is an oral history of people remembering the good and bad of the place, often in different ways. Interviewed is a wide range of people from the two guys who ran the place, Ben Ellis and Tres Shannon, to the owner of the building, to the guy who built the staircase, and lots of the bands who played there.

Hearing all these great things about the X-Ray Café you can only wonder why it didn't last. Looking at the footage, you can see it. At most shows there is no one in the audience. One guy sort of brags that he never paid to get into the club. Then he kind of reluctantly admits that maybe that was the problem. ([www.microcosmpublishing.com](http://www.microcosmpublishing.com))

Channel 3 was a band that seemed to make all the wrong decisions. Fortunately, they aren't afraid to talk about all of it. Channel 3: One More For All My True Friends is their cautionary tale. Channel 3 started as a bunch of friends playing music in a garage in the Valley. They played at parties in the neighborhood. They recorded a demo, which got them signed to Posh Boy, and Rodney played them on the radio. They toured the US. Then began the gradual slide into irrelevance. They left Posh Boy for Relativity. Band members quit or got kicked out. The music became more melodic. Their look changed. Then they broke up.

Channel 3's story is kind of sad since they seem like such nice guys. At least they have a good attitude about it, chalking it up to naiveté, stupidity, and ego. They don't seem to regret it, but aren't afraid admit that they would probably do things much differently. Plus the band recently reformed. Amazingly the members still look like they did in 1981. It's wild.

Also included on the Channel 3: One More For All My True Friends DVD is three songs shot at Target Video in San Francisco, their reunion performance at Al's Bar in Los Angeles 2006, as well as a CD of the reunion show. ([www.tkorecords.com](http://www.tkorecords.com))

Lydia Lunch has come along way from being the girl that brought the Dead Boys lunch while they practiced. Lydia Lunch Video Hysterie: 1978-2006 follows her musical development and history. It starts with her No Wave band Teenage Jesus and the Jerks at Max' Kansas City in 1978. She defiantly slides her guitar while looking a bit uncomfortable on stage. That doesn't last long. By 1980 she is more relaxed with 8 Eyed Spy. She then goes on to play with Roland S. Howard of the Birthday Party, Mark Cunningham, Die Haut, Terry Edwards, and more. The music moves away from the noise of No Wave toward more ambient experimental used more as a background to Lunch's vocals.

The extras on **Lydia Lunch Video Hysterie: 1978-2006** are pretty minimal. However, one is sort of an overview of her career including photos, film clips, and radio interviews. During one of the interviews Lunch is asked about Courtney Love. She just brushes it off until the interviewer suggests Love stole Lunch's act. Lunch curtly replies, "I never recorded any three-chord garage rock that my husband wrote for me." Ha ha. ([www.mvdvisual.com](http://www.mvdvisual.com))

I am always looking for films to review. If you made one, send a copy to Carolyn Keddy, PO Box 460402, San Francisco, CA 94146-0402. If your film is playing in the San Francisco Bay Area let me know at [carolyn@maximumrocknroll.com](mailto:carolyn@maximumrocknroll.com). I will go see it. [www.carolynkeddy.com](http://www.carolynkeddy.com)

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