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## CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING  
THIS MONTH



**TODAY'S  
TOP PICK**

**The  
Stewardess**

**Is Flying the Plane!**

**American Films of the  
1970s**

**Nov 10**

Author **Ron Hogan**

indulges in a free-form romp through various film genres — sci-fi, disasters, war, thrillers, westerns, etc. — mentioning more than 400 movies. In a few words or phrases about the plot or star, Hogan reveals quirky details on the making of the films, from inspiration to budgets to box-office results. An essential addition to the coffee table for any film buff who's fancy enough to have a coffee table.

### Series

**Gena Rowlands: An  
Independent Spirit**

**Nov 10 – 20, 2005**

The grand dame of the indies, **Gena Rowlands** has been one of America's finest screen actresses since her first collaboration with husband and Cinema God **John Cassavetes** in 1963. She'd go on to star in his **best films**, as well as work with countless other directors who used her sublime screen presence and raw emotion to create stirring performances. One to watch: "**Minnie and Moskowitz**." Catch her in person twice at Brooklyn's BAM.

### Series

## NEWS

### Rock Star 101: The DVD Collection

Thom Bennett  
IFC News

In celebration of IFC's annual Indie Rocks month we pose the question, what does it take to achieve rock god status? Musical talent aside, a wannabe rock star can learn a lot by watching the right movies. Following is a list of films to check out—and even if they don't make you a rock god or goddess, they'll at least make your DVD collection infinitely cooler.

#### No Direction Home (Paramount Home Video)

You have to start someplace, why not right at the top, with Bob Dylan and Martin Scorsese. The 3+ hour documentary manages to both mystify and demystify the enigmatic legend of Bob Dylan while showing why Martin Scorsese is Martin Scorsese. From his record-thieving, Guthrie-obsessed formative years, to his position at the pinnacle of the music world, to accusations of selling out, Dylan's career and undeniable impact on all facets of music is laid bare by one of the greatest filmmakers of our time.

**Lesson learned:** Your musical obsession can lead you somewhere and if you're truly talented, maybe one day somebody like Martin Scorsese will tell your life story.

#### Director's Label Series (Palm Pictures)

It's become a necessary evil of the music industry that in order to reach the top you need a music video. So you may as well have a great one. Palm Pictures Director's Label Series (available as both single discs and in a two-volume box set) presents the works of such filmmakers as Spike Jonze, Chris Cunningham, Michel Gondry, Mark Romanek, Jonathan Glazer, Stéphane Sednaoui and my personal favorite, Anton Corbijn. Along with the music videos are short films, commercials, interviews with the artists (too many to mention) they have worked with and odds & ends. An amazing collection for wannabe rock star and film fan alike. **Lesson learned:** Okay, so you may not be good enough yet to have a music video made by the likes of these filmmakers... I mean, get real. But you can certainly find any number of great concepts to steal. After all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

#### Public Enemy-It Takes a Nation: The First London Invasion Tour 1987 (Music Video Distributors)

Not so much a concert doc as a call to arms, Public Enemy's first London shows in 1987 are just what the title would suggest--an invasion. Never ones to take it easy or dumb themselves down, Chuck D, Flavor Flav, Terminator X and the S1W's take their politically driven show on the road to the heart of Thatcher's UK. Listening to Chuck D flow is equal parts history lesson and religious experience. And yes, Flav was then and still is the greatest hype man in the business. While the video quality is not the greatest, the combination of performance, interviews and commentary by Mista Chuck himself captures a moment in time both musically and politically that should never be forgotten. **Lesson learned:** Where to begin? If you're going to be a musician, why not have something important to say and if you are going to say something important, you may as well say it LOUD so the world can hear. Bring The Noise, indeed.

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IFC NEWSLETTER

**A Moving Camera:****Kenji Mizoguchi****Oct 31 – Nov 22, 2005**

**Kenji Mizoguchi** is one of the indisputable greats of Japanese cinema.

Often using a fluid, moving camera, his films have the contemplative qualities of **Ozu** and the breathtaking vitality of **Kurosawa**. The amazing

BAM (in Brooklyn) retrospective includes the following films: "Ugetsu," "Osaka Elegy" and "Street of Shame," to name but a few. BAM knows what the hell's up.

**Festival****Northwest Film & Video Festival****Nov 5 – 13, 2005**

For over 31 years the NWF&VF has attracted a unique breed of filmmaker, one who challenges the status quo of the cinematic landscape.

Headquartered in Portland, this fest bounces around the country, showcasing its latest selections. The 90-minute program contains all 10 short films from the Tour, plus filmmaker biographies and three bonus trailers directed by **Nick Peterson**.

**SEE COMPLETE MONTHLY CALENDAR >**

**Born to Boogie (Sanctuary Visual Entertainment)** "If there's a rock 'n' roll history, this will go down in it." So said the late, great T. Rex front man Marc Bolan of this film, which was about... well, him. And this is precisely what makes this film so great. Confused? Directed by none other than Ringo Starr and made up of a concert performance and surreal skits, it is Bolan's mere presence that elevates the film to legendary status. For the uninitiated, Bolan was all that a rock star should be. He had the look, the swagger and was one hell of a great guitarist. **Lesson Learned:** The entire rock star recipe is contained herein; you need only watch and learn. Simple yet amazing songs and more rock 'n' roll moxie than any mere mortal had before or since. Viva Marc Bolan!

**Gimme Shelter (The Criterion Collection)**

Amazing performances, a huge festival of great bands and The Rolling Stones at the top of their game. What could possibly go wrong? Being a rock star ain't just fun and groupies. Altamont will forever go down in the annals of rock history as the death of the 60's... and the great Maysles brothers got it all on film. From the amazing performances to the horrifying stabbing death of an audience member by one of the Hell's Angels hired as security for the event. One of music's seminal moments. **Lesson learned:** Never hire the Hell's Angels as concert security... oh, and the Stones were pretty damn great.

**If I Should Fall From Grace (MVD)**

I submit, without hesitation, that Shane MacGowan is of the most underrated songwriters of his generation. He possesses a seemingly effortless ability to write songs of remarkable beauty and complexity that many more celebrated songwriters would kill for. That said, Mr. MacGowan has dodged enough demons to kill an army of lesser rock gods and is still here to tell the tale. "If I Should Fall From Grace" documents the life and times of The Pogues front man whose musical genius will always be overshadowed by his legendary substance abuse and often-erratic behavior. Featuring performances and interviews from throughout his career and reverence from fellow musicians, it is the current footage of a worse-for-the-wear MacGowan that makes one truly wonder how long he will last. **Lesson learned:** Great songwriters are born, not made. It's a skill that cannot be taught.

**DiG! (Palm Pictures)**

You can't beat a good old-fashioned musical feud. Lennon vs. McCartney, Blur vs. Oasis, Biggie vs. Tupac. And then there's the curious case of Anton Newcombe and his band The Brian Jonestown Massacre vs. Courtney Taylor and The Dandy Warhols. Grand Jury Prize winner at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, "DiG!" documents how onetime musical soulmates can become adversaries when one group (The Warhols) achieves some degree of fame and the other (Newcombe's troupe) succumbs to the very self-destructiveness that fuels them. It's nothing new for great musicians cross the thin line between genius and madness (see Syd Barrett, Roky Erickson, Brian Wilson.) Sometimes it's drugs, sometimes insanity, sometimes both. However, it's when Newcombe becomes completely obsessed with the Dandy Warhols' success that things get really strange for all involved. **Lesson learned:** Genius often comes with a price.

**Glitter (Columbia/Tristar Studios)**

If you become a famous musician you might be asked to star in your very own movie. While tempting, it's as important to know what *not* to do as what to do. Mariah Carey's attempt at movie stardom is bad, so bad, in fact, that it nearly surpasses bad and becomes great. Almost, but not quite. Minimal acting talent + annoying story + horrendous high-pitched music = "Glitter." **Lesson learned:** See Frank Sinatra in "The Man With the Golden Arm", John Lennon in "How I Won the War," even Eminem in "8 Mile" and learn that some musicians can make a go of it on the big screen... and then put "Glitter" out of your mind forever.

**Hated: GG Allin and the Murder Junkies (Music Video Distributors)**

GG Allin was a bad man, not much of a musician and the world is probably a far better place without him. His shows often involved on-stage defecation and bloodletting and almost always ended in some sort of riot with the audience. His claims that he would kill himself onstage as a sacrifice to rock 'n' roll were never quite fulfilled when he died of an overdose in 1993. Directed by Todd Phillips ("Old School", "Starsky & Hutch"), this documentary is literally like a trainwreck--bloody and violent and disgusting, but I dare you to look away. And just when you think you have him pegged, he picks up his guitar and plays an acoustic cover of Warren Zevon's "Carmelita" that is simply beautiful. GG Allin was the type of character who would seem made up, though he was all too real. **Lesson**

**learned:** Rock 'n' roll isn't always pretty or very good, that doesn't mean it cannot be fascinating.

**This is Spinal Tap (MGM/UA)**

"These go to eleven." Enough said!

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