



Summer 2005

Rockers

(1977) MVD

You can judge how great a “reggae” movie is by how indecipherable its patois is, which would easily put this cult film in the microscopic genre’s top two percentile; neither subtitles nor a glossary on the DVD’s inside cover can stave off 100 minutes’ worth of “Um, what did he just say?” Luckily, its skeletal plot—Kingston drummer runs afoul of gangsters, fellow Natty Dreads help him get revenge—is a mere formality, with rare all-star performance footage and a must-own roots reggae soundtrack (including Peter Tosh’s “Steppin’ Razor,” the sixth greatest song ever written) making up for any faults. I and I heartily approve.

- David Fear