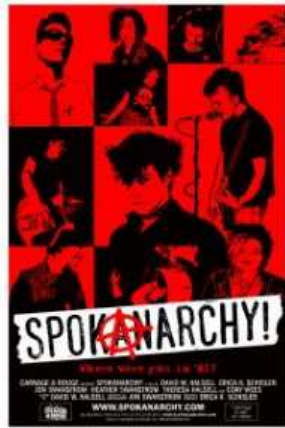


REVIEWS BY AMOS LASSEN

"SPOKANARCHY"— The Punk Rock Scene in Spokane

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"SponAnarchy!"

The Punk Rock Scene in Spokane

Amos Lassen

This is a documentary that follows the highs and lows of the punk rock scene in Spokane, Washington. It is a coming-of-age story that evolves into a coming-of-“middle age” story as those who were in the scene look back at what was and how their lives were changed by it. These were years of mayhem and music. Music held the participants together and it still does some 30 years later. Some had their lives ruined and others went on to bigger and better things but they all share the creative spirit.

They all came together two years ago to recreate their “80 Days of Mayhem” when they were artistic new-wave “weirdoes”. Those who were puns are now in their 40’s and this film includes archival footage of when they began and we see scenes from 1978-1988 with such bands and artists as Sweet Madness, P-P Ku, Strangulon, Cattle Prod, Social Bondage and the Vampire Lezbos. The film is described as “the real-life story of what it means to look back on a youth spent challenging the social and cultural norms of small town America.”

The interviewees talk about everything including where they bought their clothes and how they altered them to show their contempt for the mainstream. They were beat on at times and they takes us to where they made their music.

“David Halsell and his cohorts – Erica Schisler, executive producer, co-director and director of animation; Jon Swanstrom, director of photography, co-director, research coordinator and assistant editor; Theresa Halsell, line producer, co-director and co-editor; Heather Swanstrom, production assistant, co-director, co-editor and script supervisor; and Cory Wees, co-director, photography, lighting and grip – look upon those times as life-changing and worthy of the limelight”.

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“We really hope the film inspires others to do it yourself, think for yourself and do your own thing,” Halsell says. “If it can be done in Spokane, it can be done anywhere.” [TOP ↑](#)

The film is a look back and an interesting one to understate it. This is a fascinating look at a period of time that we will never see again.

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