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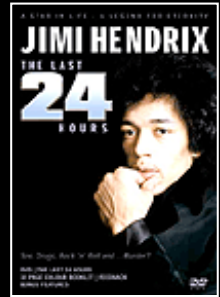
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## HENDRIX, JIMI • Jimi Hendrix: The Last 24 Hours • (MVD)

Foo-Ling Yu rates it: 😊

**JIMI HENDRIX: THE LAST 24 HOURS**  
MVD • 2004 • 58 minutes • Color • Not Rated



This is one of those documentaries that marches on one "expert" after another that you've never heard of to hip us to their personal wisdom. It starts off innocent enough. A British narrator gives us a first half description of Hendrix's rise to glory. There are interviews with an ex-girlfriend/groupie, various public relations guys, managers of other bands and concert promoters. I suppose this is to set up what a popular figure Hendrix was, but c'mon, if you didn't know how immensely famous he was, would you be watching this obscure DVD release to find out how he "really" died?

The last half uses interviews with writer/experts and filmed re-enactments of Hendrix's last day on Earth, September 18th, 1970. Monica Danneman, Jimi's "Ms. Right Now" was with him the last day. She claims she left the room they were sleeping in for a walk to the local store for cigarettes. When she returned, Jimi, who was in his underwear after a night of shagging, was still asleep and wouldn't wake up. Next to him was an empty container of Danneman's sleeping pills, nine missing. Danneman said she called for an ambulance and a few minutes later two men arrived. She asked if she could ride along to the hospital and was given permission. Doctors were unable to revive Hendrix, and broke the news to Danneman outside. The doctors reported that Hendrix died from a combination of sleeping pills and wine; in fact, his lungs were filled with wine, a very rare circumstance. The official medical report listed this as well as the the rock-star-death-familiar "choked on his own vomit."

So that's the version that had stood for quite some time. On the DVD we are told that 22 years after the death an "investigator" located the original two ambulance workers. They both reported that no one was in the room when they arrived. They reported that Hendrix was fully clothed and had quite obviously died several hours prior to their arrival. And they denied that anyone rode with them to the hospital. An actual interview with the ambulance workers would have been a nice touch. A very different version indeed, but what does all this mean? Well apparently the producers of this DVD don't really know either. In true Oliver Stone-like fashion, they suspect it was the United States Government AND the Mafia, all orchestrated by Hendrix's former manager, whom Hendrix was suing for embezzlement! Whoa!

They offer no real proof of course. They speculate that due to Hendrix's public support of the Black Panthers, and his former manager's ties to government intelligence and Mafia figures, he just had to go. Would have been nice if they could produce any documents or real, living, breathing people to back any of this up, but unfortunately all the major players are as dead as Hendrix and the producers wouldn't know an official document if you wallpapered their jail cell with it.

All in all, this isn't bad if you don't take it seriously AND it's free. In no way do you pay a dime of your hard-earned stash for this disc. The unnamed producers are unnamed for a reason. If they really believed in this shit, they would have proudly made a thoroughly-researched film and put their names in neon for all to see. A 32 Page color booklet is included featuring rare pictures and details the life and time of Jimi Hendrix. In fact, the booklet is a great mini-bio that was fun to read.

**Added:** Monday, January 03, 2005

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