

The Midwest Book Review

Janis Joplin: Her Final 24 Hours

(MVD Visual)

MVD Visual and Cineflix International has released a brand new series of biographies of musicians and people in the news. Called Final 24, the series attempts to put together the last 24 hours of a noted celebrity's life, trying to find reasons for their tragic early deaths. One of the first, Janis Joplin: Her Final 24 Hours, is a compelling look at what led up to Janis Joplin's fatal overdose.

Cineflix International, which has offices in Toronto, London, and New York, produces documentary television programs for a global audience. Some of those shows include American Pickers, Property Virgins, and Urban Legends.

Using concert footage, home movies, interviews, and reenactments, Janis Joplin: Her Final 24 Hours offers a broad portrait of the rock/blues singing sensation. The interviews offer insight into Joplin's psyche, detailing her low self-esteem, the ostracism of her home town (even when she returned at the height of her fame), and her own struggle with substance abuse and a sense of belonging. The DVD explores her meteoric rise in the music industry, her struggles with critics and finding the right band to back her up, and her own troubled personal life.

When I first received this DVD and others in the series, I thought this might be tawdry tabloid fare. But it wasn't. It was sensitive and frank and gave me a much better portrait of a singer whose voice I had always admired. I'm hoping the other titles in the Final 24 series are equally as compelling.

Janie Franz
Reviewer

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