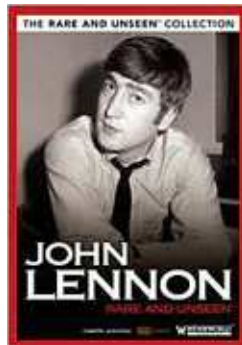


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## John Lennon: Rare and Unseen

2010

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Many people are fans of The Beatles but I've never quite managed to understand what all of the fuss is about. I understand their contribution to music but for the most part their music just doesn't ring with me nor do I consider someone like John Lennon to be the genius that many feel that he is. This puts me in the minority most definitely and is more than likely an opinion to earn me the disgust of fans who feel that without him the world as we know it would end in terms of music.

*John Lennon: Rare and Unseen* is a collection of interviews with Lennon both while he was still with The Beatles and following the bands breakup. While there are some interview portions that have in fact shown up on a few documentaries here and there it does seem that a bulk of what is presented here hasn't been seen in quite some time and is the type of material that rarely makes its way into films. The footage hasn't been remastered in any way, or so it seems, so don't expect to find everything which is offered here to be some glorious transfer. At times there is a difference in the audio clarity, even a brief bit of white noise at one point, but for fans this is a collection which should prove to be an incredible experience.

The John Lennon in the early days of The Beatles is the one which I found a bit more compelling. He's more fun loving, ready to joke around with his band and interviewers when the need arises, and is drastically different from the Lennon in later years after he met Yoko Ono. That peace, love, and harmony agenda of the 60's might have worked during that decade but it's long gone and seems to only be alive in the minds of aging hippies and their children who can't fathom the concept of simply letting the decade fade away like it should. During the earlier Beatles years one thing which is seen in the segments is John defending his comment about the band being "bigger than Jesus." This resulted in their albums being burned in America's Bible belt which is completely ridiculous but in reality Lennon was quite lucky. There was fear that someone might try and assassinate him, something which happened years later, but had he offended another religion chances are fairly good that he probably would have been beheaded, but of course I can't think for a moment of a single religion in our modern world that would do such a thing. There is some implied sarcasm there.

The collection also contains a few snippets of vintage news footage with fans, recent interviews with those who were fans or knew Lennon, and a small amount of concert footage although not much. Instead the focus is on Lennon and his various appearances, not just as a Beatle but as someone trying to install the feeling of peace in his fellow man, as an artist, and as a person. While the band does frequently come up there are often times when it's not necessarily the main subject of the interview and in most cases you'll find that aside from the playful side of Lennon that he genuinely comes across as a very well spoken, intelligent musician, something which often isn't the case today.

The DVD unfortunately doesn't have any additional extra features and I would imagine there are hours of archival footage which would have been added in, even extended interviews with those who appear in the collection like Phil Collins, but what is offered here should be more than appreciated by fans of John Lennon and The Beatles. I may not be a fan, but I know a decent collection when I see one and this definitely has plenty to offer.

-mike-

Featuring:  
John Lennon  
Paul McCartney  
George Harrison  
Ringo Starr  
Yoko Ono

DVD Features  
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1  
Audio: English Stereo Surround

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