

The Electric Review

♦ **JOHN LENNON – RARE AND UNSEEN.** Wienerworld/MVD

By John Aiello

John Lennon was the heart and soul of the Beatles. Simply, it was Lennon's vision that guided the band and gave it true depth. In this latest installment of MVD's **Rare and Unseen** collection, fans are allowed an intimate glimpse into one of rock's true heavyweights. Through an assemblage of archival film footage, videos, newsreels and private photographs, we are allowed to view Lennon outside the idea of 'the band' – looking at him here not as a 'Beatle' but as an artist who was on a personal mission to enlighten the eyes and ears of the world. For Lennon, art had a simple and singular purpose – to teach people that it is perfectly fine to be yourself and speak through the individualized heart-sound of your own song. And that's just what you'll see in **Rare and Unseen**: Lennon in the midst of all his faces, caught in both public and private moments, awash in the music, walking to the cadence of his own perfect melody. More than anything else, this film is notable because it forces the audience to recognize Lennon not as a member of the *Fab Four*, but instead, as an artist whose voice transcended the narrow confines of rock and pop: Dancing down this ethereal tightrope with the ghosts of long-dead poets, creating for the holy sake of creation.

<http://www.electricrev.net/cdwatch1.html#DVDS>