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This week's new DVD and Blu-ray

Phelim O'NeillThe Guardian, Saturday 7 August 2010



I Need That Record.

I Need That Record!

DVD, Wienerworld

The one thing that everyone agrees on in this US documentary about independent record stores is that they are, basically, just places to sell music. But no one would ever state that's *all* they are. They are hassle-free places to hang out, to talk rubbish fearlessly, to argue loudly without being asked to move on, to form bands, to see bands, to hand out flyers – even to *not* buy music. Indie record shops have something the major chains will never replicate no matter how many surveys and spreadsheets they employ: they are cool. Here, customers and workers alike tell tales of arriving before opening hours, of discovering some classic tucked away, of being recommended a life-changing album, of learning they are not the only one in a 1,000-mile radius who likes Minor Threat. This may get more than a little rose-tinted at times, but do you really think that people will get as misty-eyed about making their music choices via the click of a mouse or from the limited choice of CDs at the supermarket checkout? Hell, no. It's a very well assembled documentary, but the two hours-plus of single-shot, raw interview footage in the extras is what seals the deal. Without the graphics, stats and soundbite punchiness, you get some great, long chunks of interviewees just talking, with notables Glenn Branca (pictured), Lenny Kaye and Thurston Moore giving fascinating personal details. While the movie itself raises important and sobering points that could apply to comic stores or any independent retail outlet under threat of extinction, the additional footage is all about the music, man.

Spiral

DVD, 2entertain
