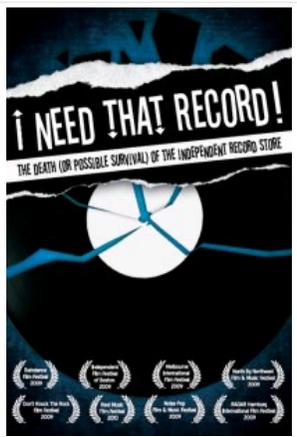




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I Need That Record!: The Death (Or Possible Survival) Of The Independent Record Store DVD

POSTED BY MARTIJN ON JUNE - 17 - 2010



I Need That Record!: The Death (Or Possible Survival) Of The Independent Record Store

I Need That Record!: The Death (Or Possible Survival) Of The Independent Record Store DVD (director: Brendan Toller; MVD Visual)

I love music. I don't kind-of like music, don't enjoy music, don't have an interest in music. Music, for me, equals life. Period. I hate being out in public, can't stand being around people, would much, much, much rather be sitting at home with my headphones clamped over my ears... but I have relished every second of my life that was spent in a record store, and there have been many. Why was being 19 the best year of my life? Because that was the year I had the opportunity to manage an independent all-metal/hard rock record store in the sleepy community of Lawton, Oklahoma. How did I survive high school? Easy answer: the indie record shops that thrived in every Bahnhof (train station) in every small city in West Germany, where I lived at the time. How do I get the bulk of my music now? At a place that I consider to be the heart and soul of my current hometown of

Austin, Texas—Encore Records on Anderson Lane. So when I found out about this independently produced documentary on the mass extermination of indie record stores across the USA, I had to watch it as soon as possible. In any documentary, the filmmaker will present the story in his own way, with his prejudices, his opinions, and a focus on subjects that he feels personally connected to. Brendan Toller—who is the sole writer, director, and editor of I Need That Record!—concentrates on a small area of the USA, spending most of the film shifting between Connecticut, Washington DC, and various parts of Ohio. The film follows the owners of a few different stores that had become institutions in their respective communities, chronicling each store's final days then catching up with the owners a few months later to see how their lives had changed. It also paints a broad-stroke portrait of the music industry, offering examples of possible culprits—such as the rise and fall of MTV, the rise and fall of Napster coupled with the rise and continuing rise both of iTunes and of music downloading in general, and the manner in which corporate greed has corrupted major record labels and all commercial radio stations over the years—without actually pointing a specific finger at any specific target. Anyone who has spent time in an indie record store will enjoy the footage of the various store owners, because, let's face it, there's a certain type of person behind the counter at an indie record store, so we all have a feeling of instant comfort inside the walls of any and all such places. The celebrity interviews are well-chosen and well-placed, and this DVD is worth the cost just for the passionate insights provided by Ian MacKaye, Thurston Moore, Mike Watt, Legs McNeil, Lenny Kaye, Glenn Branca, Patterson Hood, Pat Carney (Black Keys), BP Helium (Of Montreal), and—interestingly, in a very, very good way—Noam Chomsky. The film runs a little under half an hour, but the DVD is packed with well over 2 hours of extras, including full interviews with those listed above. If you have ever "needed" a record, you need to own a copy of this film. **The Impaler**

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