

News

I Need That Record Documentary Details Indie Record Stores' Struggles and Survival

By Christine Borges, Thu., Jul. 29 2010 @ 1:30PM

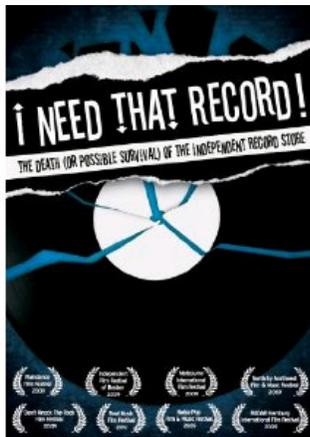
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Okay, so we don't think independent record stores in South Florida are going anywhere -- hello, [Sweatstock](#), [Record Store Day](#) -- but that doesn't mean they're thriving everywhere else in the country. That's what *I Need That Record: The Death or Possible Survival of the Independent Record Store* is out there to prove, anyway.



The documentary, which was released everywhere on DVD this past Tuesday, chats up music greats like Thurston Moore, Mike Watt, Ian MacKaye, Lenny Kaye ([Patti Smith Group](#)), Pat Carney ([The Black Keys](#)), and many more about the future of independent record stores. Noam Chomsky (!) and various rock photographers and critics also appear and opine.

But before you go crying into a box of Kleenex, this doc isn't all sadness.

Yes, main message touches upon why over 3,000 independent record stores have closed across the U.S. in the past decade. Of course greedy record labels, homogenized radio, E-commerce, and the digital revolution are all named as threats, but there are some surprises as well. What's more, the film details how many have, in the face of all of this, survive.

The film's director, Brendan Toller, made the movie as a part of his thesis project when he was a student at Hampshire College. He told [Rolling Stone](#):

"For music fans, going to stores is the center of your social universe. It's the same community of people that sit in sports bars or bookstores. We're social beings but it's harder and harder to support local business if prices aren't affordable."

If you didn't catch the film's limited theatrical release, ask a local store like [Sweat](#) to special-order it! Check out the trailer for the film below.

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Brendan Toller, I Need That Record

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