

Brendan Toller

I Need That Record

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Every so often, a movie or documentary comes around that inspires intrigues and shed's light on a subject that probably is not universally understood. "I Need That Record" is one of those. The Independent Record store has fallen on hard times due to many different social and economic reasoning's. Once a meeting place for music hounds from every walk of life to consume, explore and share has given way to profit, greed and downloading. Brendan Toller illustrates through his documentary how and why we are losing these once viable Ma and Pa institutions. Having spent many years thumbing through dusty vinyl my viewpoints are much aligned with Brendan's and others that appear in his film. Support your local record store before it is too late!!!!!!



What or whom initially planted the seed in your mind to create this documentary?

In the summer of 2006, my neighborhood record store, Record Express, closed shop. They were a New England chain of 13 that was whittled down to one by 2004.

They had a few great years with that one flagship store and then the iPod hit. I had been reading about record store closures a lot in the press and they were so quick to blame downloading as the sole reason as to why over 3,000 stores had been shutting down. Just like the financial collapse or anything, really there is always a host of contributing factors. In this case, it was record company greed, corporatization of radio, corrupt legislation, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CD prices, reduction of CD singles... All of which directly affected the music industry and in turn record stores. Certainly digital music is a factor but I thought all these other contributors should be investigated and brought to light.

