

Toronto, ON



Music Movie Mondays: Blues And The Alligator



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The founder of the premiere blues record label in the world

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As we hit the tail end of the last long weekend of the summer, you may have a case of the blues. Thank goodness another “Music Movie Mondays” has rolled around to offer up a potential cure. If it is a case of the blues that you do have, the only known cure for that is even more blues. Today we look at the first twenty years of one of the most important and influential blues labels in the world. Get ready to stomp your feet for “Blues And The Alligator: The first Twenty years of Alligator Records”.

Alligator Records was founded in Chicago Illinois in 1971 by Bruce Iglauer who moved to the city from Cincinnati where he had been attending college and dropped out simply because he wanted to be closer to his favorite Blues artists. Bruce fell in love with the Blues during the 1960's as he attended folk music festivals. This film tracks the roots of the blues and the reasons for its genesis in the city of Chicago, we not only meet contemporary Blues artists like Kenny Neal and Lucky Peterson but also some great moments with legends of the past like Koko Taylor and Sonny Boy Williamson to round out

Video: [Blues And The Alligator](#)

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its deep roots. Through performances and interviews we see that the ultimate goal of Alligator Records was never to make a lot of money, it is to keep the music alive.

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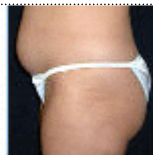
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Forty years later, Alligator Records is still alive and kicking so we need not worry about the fate of the blues. This film was produced in 1991 so some of these artists in the film have actually passed away (Koko Taylor passed away in 2009), but it does give a brief yet interesting tale of the birth of the label. They hit the major bullet points, but as it was intercut with performance footage from various artists and sit down interviews it didn't elevate beyond a promotional piece for the label and it all felt a kind of rushed, it was more a teaser for the music than anything else.

The music in "Blues And The Alligator" raises this film into the acceptable range and is a decent yet dated primer for anyone looking to expand their knowledge of the blues.

3 out of 5 stars.

"Blues And The Alligator: The first Twenty years of Alligator Records" should be available at video and record stores across Toronto, click [here](#) and [here](#) for more details.

Ultimately I'd recommend an online retailer like [seeofsound.com](#) if you'd like to pick this DVD up.

If you'd like to learn more about Alligator Records, you can visit there site right [here](#).

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