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FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2012

X - The Unheard Music (1986, W.T. Morgan)



I will start this review off the way I like to when talking about a subject that has some nostalgic value. X was one of those bands I heard a lot about when I was younger and tried to get into but it took awhile for it to click with me. I remember buying their More Fun in the New World LP at the Grafton Flea Market in Grafton, MA when I was probably 14 or so for \$1.00. I brought it home expecting a nice slice of fast punk but was confused by the political anthems, some of which were more mid tempo or even (gasp!) slow. I wouldn't say I hated it but I put it aside and didn't listen to it again. Probably about a year later I received a copy of X's Los Angeles/Wild Gift CD for Christmas and though I liked some of the songs, they were still not exactly what I was looking for at the time. It took a few years when I saw The Decline of Western Civilization and the purchase of their Under the Big Black Sun album

ABOUT ME



STARMUMMY

My name is Starmummy. I am not from Earth. I do live here though. I like to review movies, particularly ones that will offend the average person. I review whatever movie I feel like reviewing whenever I want. I will gladly take suggestions and free stuff.

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before X really clicked with me. I went back and revisited their other albums and suddenly I felt like I really got it. X - The Unheard Music is a documentary of the film released when they were at the height of their brilliance that has recently found its way to DVD and Blu Ray courtesy of [MVD](#).

X were one of the most popular bands in the late 70s/early 80s L.A. punk scene, along with The Dickies, The Germs, The Alleycats and many more. Before the scene became dominated by Hardcore bands like Black Flag, The Circle Jerks, Wasted Youth, the L.A. punk scene, much like the early NY/CBGB punk scene, adopted the punk mentality but each band had a different approach and sound. X took their love of rockabilly and country music and sped up the tempos making a melodic, furious sound highlighted by Billy Zoom's rockabilly guitar solos and bassist John Doe and Exene's harmony vocals. Top it all off with one of the most talented drummers, D.J. Bonebrake, and you have a band at the top of their game. The Unheard Music chronicles how the band started, where they were headed and just what made them so great.

The Unheard Music is one of the most personal accounts of a musical group that I have seen in the form of a documentary. Not like the posthumous documentaries sprinkled with interviews of band members and hangers on, The Unheard Music is a fly on the wall look into the band at the height of their popularity. Though X had a few hits and are considered legends now, they never received the popularity that everyone expected (and that they deserved). Each band member proves to be an interesting character, something a lot of band documentaries are missing, and we get to see their private lives up close and personal. The most memorable moments in the film include Exene talking about the death of her sister and D.J. explaining his "polyrhythmic" drumming method. In closing, this film should be seen by anyone who likes a good rock documentary (or any documentary), especially fans of the band or punk rock. The Unheard Music features new interviews with the band and film makers. Also included is a reproduction of Exene's Unheard Music songbook.

RATING: 10/10

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POSTED BY STARMUMMY AT 11:16 PM 

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1 COMMENTS:

 Chris said...

Accuarate rating. Really enjoyed this when I got sent it to review.

I'm not a huge fan but the way it was made it enthralling

APRIL 8, 2012 12:40 AM

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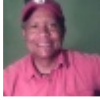




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[An American Demon \(1\)](#)

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Beastmaster (1)
Beyond the Darkness (1)
Beyond the Door (1)
Bicycle Thieves (1)
Big Bird Cage (1)
Big Doll House (1)
Big Trouble in Little China (1)
Bird with the Crystal Plumage (1)
Birdemic (1)
Bitch Slap (1)
Black Christmas (1974) (1)
Black Christmas (2006) (1)
Black Hole (1)
Black Mama White Mama (1)
Blacula (1)
Blair Witch Project (1)
Blood and Black Lace (1)
Blood Junkie (1)
Blood Oath (1)
Bloodsucking Freaks (1)
Bloodsucking Nazi Zombies (1)
Bloody Birthday (1)
Blue Underground (1)
Bob Dylan 1990-2006 (1)
Bob Dylan Revealed (1)
Body Puzzle (1)
Book reviews (2)
Boss Nigger (1)
Brian Eno 1971-1977 The Man Who
 Fell to Earth (1)
Bruno Mattei films (1)
Bucktown (1)
Buio Omega (1)
Burnt Offerings (1)
Caliber 9 (1)
California Split (1)
Caller (1)
Cannibal Apocalypse (1)
Cannibal Ferox (1)
Cannibal Holocaust (1)

Capone (1)
Carpenter (1)
Casino Royale (1967) (1)
Casino Royale (2006) (1)
Castle Freak (1)
Cat O' Nine Tails (1)
Cat People (1)
Cat's Eye (1)
Child's Play series (5)
Chillerama (1)
Christmas Evil (1)
Christmas films (9)
City of the Living Dead (1)
Clowns (1)
Coffy (1)
Conquest (1)
Contamination (1)
Cooley High (1)
Cop in Blue Jeans (1)
Corman's World (2)
Creep (1)
Crimewave (1)
Crippled Masters 2 (1)
Crippled Masters 3 (1)
Critters (1)
Critters 2 (1)
Critters 3 (1)
Critters 4 (1)
Critters series (4)
Crow (1)
Crow films (4)
Crow: City of Angels (1)
Crow: Salvation (1)
Crow: Wicked Prayer (1)
Curse of the Devil (1)
Cut-Throats Nine (1)
Dahmer vs. Gacy (1)
Damnation Alley (1)
Danger: Diabolik (1)

Dario Argento films (6)
Dark Sky Films (1)
David Cronenberg films (2)
Dawn of the Dead (1)
Dead (1)
Dead and the Damned (1)
Dead Cert (2)
Dead Zone (1)
Death Dimension (1)
Death of Andy Kaufman (1)
Death Race 2000 (3)
Death Sport (1)
Deathsport (1)
Deep Red (1)
Depeche Mode - Rewind (1)
Devil's Men (1)
Dinosaur Jr - Bug Live (1)
Diry Mary Crazy Larry (1)
Django Kill (1)
Don Coscarelli films (3)
Don't Go in the Woods (1)
Don't Open Till Christmas (1)
Dorm That Dripped Blood (1)
Dune (1)
Easy Rider (1)
Eat My Dust (1)
Eaten Alive (2)
Embodiment of Evil (1)
Enzo G. Castellari films (1)
Evil Dead (1)
Evil Dead 2 (1)
Evil Dead series (3)
Evil Things (1)
Exorcism (1)
Exterminator (2)
Fade to Black (1)
Fan of the Dead (1)
Fear City (1)
Federico Fellini (1)

Fernando Di Leo Crime Collection
(1)
Fighting Life (1)
Fighting Owl Films (1)
Final Destination series (3)
First Quarter Review 2009 (1)
First Quarter Review 2010 (1)
First Quarter Review 2011 (1)
Fog (1)
Forbidden World (1)
Four Flies on Grey Velvet (1)
Four of the Apocalypse (1)
Fourth Quarter Review 2009 (1)
Fourth Quarter Review 2010 (1)
Foxy Brown (1)
French Connection (1)
Friday the 13th series (1)
Fright Night (1)
Funhouse (1)
Galaxy of Terror (2)
Gamera (2)
George Romero films (1)
Georgia Peaches (1)
Global Cinema Distribution (1)
Godfather of Gore (1)
Goodbye Uncle Tom (1)
Grand Theft Auto (1)
Great Silence (1)
Great Texas Dynamite Chase (1)
Great White (1)
Grotesque (1)
Gunslinger (1)
H.O.T.S. (1)
Halloween (2007) (1)
Halloween 2 (2009) (1)
Halloween Mix 2009 (1)
Halloween Mix 2010 (1)
Halloween series (10)
Hamlet (1)
Hammer films (2)

Happy Birthday to Me (1)
Hardcore (1)
Haunted World of El Superbeasto (1)
Haunting at the Beacon (1)
HD Cinema Classics (1)
He Knows You're Alone (1)
Heaven 17 - Live at Scala (1)
Hell Night (1)
Hell of the Living Dead (1)
Hell Ride (1)
Hellraiser (1)
Heroes (1)
Herschell Gordon Lewis (1)
Hidden (1)
High Crime (1)
Hills Have Eyes (2)
Hills Run Red (1)
Hitch-Hike (1)
HorrorHound magazine (1)
House by the Cemetery (1)
House of the Devil (1)
House of the Wolf Man (1)
Howling series (7)
Humanoids from the Deep (2)
Humongous (1)
Hüsker Dü (1)
I Clowns (1)
I Saw the Devil (2)
I Vinti (1)
Iggy and the Stooges - Raw Power
Live (1)
Il Boss (1)
Il Dio chiamato Dorian (1)
Image Entertainment (2)
Inception Media Group (2)
Inn of the Frightened People (1)
Intervision Pictures Corp (2)
Intruder (1)
Island of the Fishmen (1)
Isle of the Damned (1)

Italian Connection (1)
Italian Horror Blog-a-thon (1)
Jack Grisham (1)
Jack Hill films (7)
James Bond series (3)
Jess Franco films (2)
Jessicka Rabid (1)
Joe D'Amato films (2)
John Carpenter films (4)
Jungle Holocaust (1)
Katarina's Nightmare Theater (7)
Kenny and Co. (1)
Klown Kamp Massacre (1)
L'antichristo (1)
La donna nel mondo (1)
Ladies and Gentlemen The Fabulous
Stains (1)
Ladri di biciclette (1)
Lady Frankenstein (1)
Lake Placid 3 (1)
Land of the Minotaur (1)
Larry Blamire films (2)
Last Cannibal World (1)
Last Jaws (1)
Last Shark (1)
Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires (1)
Lethal Ladies Collection (1)
Little Shop of Horrors (1)
Live Like a Cop Die Like a Man (1)
Lords of Flatbush (1)
Lost Boys (1)
Lost Skeleton of Cadavra (1)
Lost Skeleton Returns Again (1)
Loveless (1)
Lucio Fulci films (11)
Luigi Cozzi films (2)
Machete Maidens Unleashed (1)
Mack (1)
Malabimba: The Malicious Whore (1)
Mangiati Vivi (1)

Manhattan Baby (1)
Maniac Cop (1)
Maniac Cop 2 (1)
Maniac Cop 3 (1)
Maniac Cop films (3)
Manos The Hands of Fate (1)
Mario Bava films (2)
Mark of the Devil (1)
Martin (1)
Martin Scorsese films (1)
Martyrs (1)
Mean Streets (1)
Michelangelo Antonioni films (1)
Midnight Legacy (1)
Mondo Cane (1)
Mondo Cane 2 (1)
Mondo Pazzo (1)
Monkey Hu\$tle (1)
Monkey Hustle (1)
Mother Jugs and Speed (1)
Mother's Day (1)
Mountain of the Cannibal God (1)
Movies watched 1/1/09-3/31/09 (1)
Movies watched 1/1/11 - 3/31/11
(1)
Movies watched 10/1/09 - 12/31/09
(1)
Movies Watched 10/1/10 - 12/31/10
(1)
Movies watched 4/1/09 - 6/30/09
(1)
Movies watched 4/1/10 - 6/30/10
(2)
Movies watched 7/1/09 - 9/30/09
(1)
Movies watched 7/1/10 - 9/30/10
(1)
Ms. 45 (1)
Murder Obsession (1)
Murder Rock (1)

MVD (9)
My Bloody Valentine (1)
My Bloody Valentine 3D (1)
Mystery Science Theater 3000 (10)
Navy Seals (1)
Nesting (1)
Never Too Young to Die (1)
NEW RATING SYSTEM (1)
New York Ripper (1)
Nickel Ride (1)
Nigh Shift (1)
Night of the Living Dead (1990) (1)
Night of the Living Dead Reanimated
(1)
Night of the Zombies (1)
Nightmare City (1)
Nightmares (1)
Nil by Mouth (1)
Nothing But the Night (1)
Nuova Guinea - l'isola dei cannibali
(1)
Oasis of the Zombies (1)
Oblivion (1)
October 2009 Movie Marathon (1)
Oidivnikufesin (1)
OK Connery (1)
Once (1)
One 7 Movies (1)
One and Only (1)
One Down Two to Go (1)
Opera (1)
Operation Double 007 (1)
Operation Kid Brother (1)
Orca (1)
Orphan (1)
Paul Naschy - RIP (1)
Paul Naschy films (1)
Paul Schrader films (2)
Perfume of the Lady in Black (1)
Pieces (1)

Piranha (3)
Piranha part Two: The Spawning (1)
Pit Stop (1)
Planet of the Apes series (1)
Pom Pom Girls (1)
Poor Pretty Eddie (1)
Population: 1 (1)
Prom Night (2)
Prowler (1)
Pumpkinhead (1)
Pyx (1)
Race with the Devil (1)
Raro Video (10)
Real Cannibal Holocaust (1)
Rebel Without a Cause (1)
REC (1)
Red Zone Cuba (1)
Repo Man (1)
Repulsion (1)
Revenge (1)
Revolver (1)
Rhinestone (1)
Rio Conchos (1)
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (1)
Roadgames (1)
Rob Zombie films (3)
Robert Altman films (1)
Rock and Shock Horror Convention
(2)
Rock N Roll High School (1)
Roger Corman Cult Classics (11)
Rome Armed to the Teeth (1)
Ron Howard Action Pack (1)
Rosemary's Baby (1)
Ruggero Deodato films (3)
Rulers of the City (1)
Sacred Triangle - Bowie Iggy Lou
1971-1973 (1)
Sam Raimi films (4)
Satan's Blood (1)

Saturn 3 (1)
Savage Streets (1)
Score (1)
Scorpion Releasing (7)
Scream (2)
Scream 2 (1)
Scream 3 (1)
Scream Blacula Scream (1)
Scream series (3)
Scum (1)
Second Quarter Review 2009 (1)
Second Quarter Review 2010 (1)
Second Quarter Review 2011 (1)
Secret Life: Jeffrey Dahmer (1)
Secret of Dorian Gray (1)
Sergio Martino films (1)
Severin Films (2)
Shape of Things to Come (1)
Shark Hunter (1)
Shivers (1)
Shout Factory (25)
Silent Night Deadly Night series (5)
Sinful Dwarf (1)
Skew (1)
Slaughter High (1)
Sleepaway Camp (1)
Smokey Bites the Dust (1)
Snuff (1)
Sodomatik Mixtapes (1)
Sole Survivor (1)
Something Weird Video (1)
Spider Baby (1)
Splash Award (1)
Stage Fright (1)
Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1)
Star Trek III: The Search for Spock
(1)
Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1)
Star Trek series (6)
Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1)

Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered
Country (1)

Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1)

Starcrash (1)

Steven Seagal films (2)

Stranger in our House (1)

Streets (1)

Streets of Fire (1)

Stuart Gordon films (1)

Suburbia (2)

Summer of Fear (1)

Survival Quest (1)

Sweet Life (1)

Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song
(1)

Swinging Cheerleaders (1)

Switchblade Sisters (1)

Synapse Films (5)

Taint (1)

Take a Hard Ride (1)

Teaching Mrs. Tingle (1)

Tenebre (1)

Terminator (2)

Terror Train (1)

Thankskilling (1)

The Beyond (1)

The Clowns (1)

The Cynic The Rat and The Fist (1)

The Descent (1)

The Psychic (1)

They Live (1)

Things (1)

Third Quarter Review 2009 (1)

Third Quarter Review 2010 (1)

Three the Hard Way (1)

Tim Ritter films (2)

Time Walker (1)

To Be Twenty (1)

Tobe Hooper films (2)

Touch of Satan (1)

Tourist Trap (1)
Trailers from Hell Volume 2 (1)
Trick 'r Treat (1)
Trip with the Teacher (1)
Troma films (7)
Truck Turner (1)
Truth or Dare? (1)
TSOL (1)
Twitch of the Death Nerve (1)
Two Crippled Heroes (1)
Two-Lane Blacktop (1)
Umberto Lenzi films (6)
Unearthly (1)
Urban Legend (1)
Vampire Circus (1)
Vampires Mummies and Monsters (1)
Vanquished (1)
Velvet Vampire (1)
Venom (1)
Virginia Creepers (1)
Viva Django (1)
Vote For What You Want Me to
Review Next (1)
Walter Hill films (1)
Wanderers (1)
Waxwork (1)
Whatever Happened to Pink Floyd?
(1)
Where the Day Takes You (1)
Wild One (1)
Wild West Collection (1)
William Friedkin films (1)
Wintry Mix (1)
Wise Blood (1)
Women of the World (1)
X - The Unheard Music (1)
Yesspeak (1)
Zombi 3 (1)
Zombie (1)

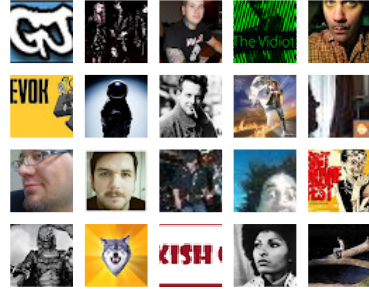
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