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"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

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Unlike others who dance with only their arms and their legs, her whole body is involved. It's like every muscle is attuned to the music and responds to what's being played. It might start with her hands or her feet, but soon it can't be contained and her whole body explodes into motion. However it's not an uncontrolled flailing around either. For no matter how fast or involved her movements, she's always able to stay centred on a song's rhythm and it's that pulse that lies at the base of everything she does.

As an historical record of just how incredible Ike and Tina Turner were at the peak of their career, there's no questioning the value of this DVD. However, in spite of what Gruen says in his liner notes, there's no evidence of them having anything in common aside from the music. Nothing of what we see of them together in this movie indicates an emotional bond existed between them. In fact we learn almost nothing about Ike except that he was completely devoted to his music. Maybe he was just a very shy man, or very private, but don't go looking for anything that will give you any insights into their private life, because you won't find it here.

While the majority of the DVD is taken from the black and white footage Gruen shot with his early model video camera, there are a few pieces of colour film spliced into it that were shot at the same time. Unfortunately, all they serve to do is make the flaws in the video even more obvious. Sometime, parts of the image on screen blacks out because of low light, and other times the exposure is off because the ambient light was too bright. However, that doesn't stop this DVD from being something special to watch.

The music created by Ike and Tina Turner was some of the most amazing R&B/soul/funk produced in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Any opportunity to see them perform shouldn't be missed. No matter what happened down the line, it can never be denied what they did together was amazing – it's just too bad it couldn't have lasted.

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Article tags

1970s • Bob Gruen • documentary • DVD • Ike & Tina Turner • Ike & Tina Turner On The Road: 1971-72 • music

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