

The Impaler Speaks

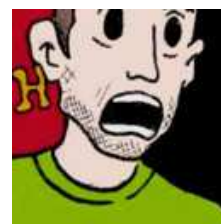
Ike & Tina: On The Road 1971-72



Ike & Tina: On The Road 1971-72 ([MVD Visual](#))

directed by: [Nadya Beck & Bob Gruen](#)

Like other films by the husband/wife team of Bob Gruen and Nadya Beck – particularly their smashing look inside the lives of New York Dolls, 'Lookin' Fine On Television' – the charm of this documentary lies in the fact that it isn't really a documentary, or even – in the strictest terms – a film, as such. As they did with the Dolls, Gruen and Beck simply moved in with their subjects – both on the road and, literally, at home – capturing raw home movies, alternate views of live performances, over the shoulder and off the cuff interviews, and other voyeuristic visual and audio snippets that were later assembled into a loosely structured long-form film with no narrative voice, either literal or figurative. The end result is a gripping non-documentary that offers a fascinating look into the lives of what may very well be the most volatile couple in the history of rock 'n' roll: Ike & Tina Turner. The behind-the-scenes footage on display here, which has the almost-naughty feel of being captured without the subjects' knowledge – though that is not the case, and actually speaks more to the level of regard that Gruen and Beck were held in than to anything else – offers glimpses into the lives and mindsets of both Ike and Tina that may shock, or at least surprise, most viewers. Footage of Tina cooking dinner, clowning around with her children, and ribbing Ike – with no sign of his infamous anger or aggression surfacing – pricelessly reveals the woman behind the glitz and glamor for which she's become known, while footage of the duo onstage performing rip-roaring versions of 'Proud Mary', 'Respect', 'I Want To Take You Higher', 'River Deep, Mountain High', 'Walking The Dog', and over a dozen more



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

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songs makes it clear that Ike & Tina were damn near untouchable in their heyday. Casual fans may find the film's pacing a bit slow in places, and there is no doubt that both the video and audio quality leave a lot to be desired here in the high-definition/digital age, but focusing on any of those things is akin to missing the point entirely. 'On The Road 1971-72' takes its viewers deep inside the lives of its subjects and collects a series of stunning performances that cannot be seen or heard anywhere else. Ike and Tina Turner were a one-of-a-kind act, and this is a one-of-a-kind film that makes their legend shine a little more brightly, from my perspective. As Gruen points out in the liner notes, the story of Ike and Tina breaking up is well-known, but 'this film shows why they were together for twenty years before that.' **The Impaler** [@impalerspeaks](#)

Posted 2 weeks ago

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