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Derailroaded: Inside the Mind of Larry "Wild Man" Fischer (MVD Video, DVD)

DVD documentary chronicles story of Zappa-linked 'Wild Man'

By Howard Whitman

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First off, let's get this out of the way: Larry "Wild Man" Fischer is crazy. Not crazy-wild in a fun, rock-n'-roll kind of way, but literally crazy. He's a paranoid schizophrenic with a lifelong history of violence. He's also a classic rock character, most famous for briefly aligning with Frank Zappa. Their collaboration yielded "My Name is Larry", a song that became a staple on Dr. Demento's radio show of audio oddities. He also had some mainstream success, appearing on TV shows like "Laugh In" in the early 1970s. Fischer's life story is told in this DVD documentary, and a sobering tale it is. His childlike shout-singing is an acquired taste, to be sure--to some, it may be the sound of pure, unbridled creativity and freedom; to others, it's the insane rantings of a damaged soul. "Derailroaded" certainly presents a case for the latter interpretation: Learning about Fischer's history (including his penchant for pulling knives, one incident of which ended his association with Zappa)--and seeing what's become of him in recent years--is a sad yet fascinating journey in this well-done documentary. Funny at times, heartbreaking at others, "Derailroaded" may not leave you with a complete understanding of "Wild Man" or his body of work, but it's a compelling glimpse into the heart of madness.

See the trailer for "Derailroaded" and learn more about the film at its official site by clicking [here](#).

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