

# NEW YORK POST



**Rating:** ★★★

By V.A Musetto

The Wild Man cometh.

*Running time: 86 minutes. Not rated (ranting).  
At the Two Boots Pioneer Theater, Avenue A  
and Third Street.*

**YOU** don't have to be crazy to sing like Larry "Wild Man" Fischer — subject of Josh Rubin's reverential documentary "Derailroaded" — but it helps.

Fischer is a paranoid-schizophrenic who, in one of his rantings, claims to be the world's greatest rock singer. Well, not quite — but in the world of "outsider music," Fischer is a cult legend.

You might say he is to music what R. Crumb is to art.

Fischer owes it all to Frank Zappa, who discovered him and joined him on an album in the '60s. Their friendship ended when Fischer threw a bottle that almost hit baby Moon Unit Zappa.

Fischer's illness might have to do with his mother. He claims she didn't love him and, before she died, he talked about killing her.

At age 16, he went after her with a knife and was locked away in a mental hospital. Released, he took to the streets of Los Angeles, singing his songs at a dime apiece.

Over the past 40 years, he's had modest mainstream success, appearing on TV's "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In," being the subject of a comic book and (are you ready?) singing a duet with Rosemary Clooney.

In his younger days, he looked almost normal. Now his wild hair and rotting teeth make him appear like an escapee from a Bowery flophouse.

Even so, his fans include Mark Mothersbaugh of Devo and Weird Al Yankovic.

Fischer's older brother, David, is less enthused: "I still don't think he's a good singer."

Most people would agree with David's assessment of the Wild Man's peculiar version of singing — he sounds like a garbage truck outside your bedroom window at 3 in the morning — but even they have to admit he sings and writes with true emotion. That is more than you can say about most pop music today.

In case you're wondering: "Derailroaded" is the name of one of Fischer's songs ("I've been derailroaded by everyone.")