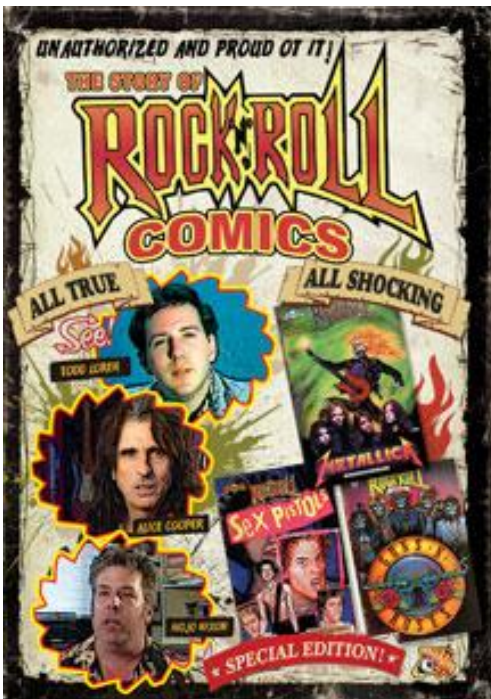


STORY OF ROCK N ROLL COMICS (MVD5348D)

PRESS CLIPPINGS



"THE STORY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS" examines the short, controversial life of publisher Todd Loren, whose scandalous series of unauthorized comic book biographies of rock stars charmed some (Gene Simmons, Jerry Garcia, Nick Mason of Pink Floyd) and enraged others (Axl Rose, Bon Jovi, Skid Row, New Kids on the Block) who eventually sued him.

In a landmark ruling however, the California Supreme Court decided that "Rock 'N' Roll Comics" was protected by the First Amendment and that Loren could continue publishing. But in 1992, Loren is found dead in his condo and his murder opens up speculation that he might have been the first victim of serial killer Andrew Cunanan, murderer of fashion designer Gianni Versace

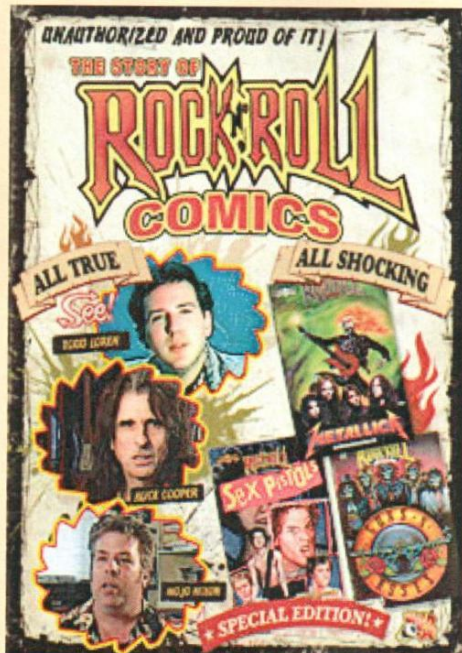
Mixing quirky animation, eerie home video of Todd Loren, investigative footage and interviews/commentaries from artists including Mojo Nixon, Alice Cooper, Gary Groth, Ian Shirley, Cynthia Plaster Caster and more, "THE

STORY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS" is an engaging expose about a man, whose love of music and comic books left a cultural impact and whose life, and mysterious death, is just as colorful as the comics he created.

- Over two hours of bonus features, extended interviews, TV news clips, commercials, trailers and a Revolution Comics/ Rock N Roll Comics cover art gallery
- Liner notes from Rock N Roll Comics co-creator Jay Allen Sanford, as well as from rock critic Rob O'Connor (Rolling Stone, Spin, Yahoo)

MAY/JUNE 2012

The Beat Magazine



Irreverent and unbelievable

The Story of Rock'n'roll Comics
MVD Visual DVD: MVD5348D

FOR THOSE of you unfamiliar with Todd Loren's 'rock'n'roll comics' imagine a mix of Mad Magazine and Private Eye, with the known excesses of 70/80s rock behaviour and you are only half way there.

Amazing caricatures on the cover were just a taster of the inner contents: stories so far-fetched the number of attempts to close the magazine down failed, while gaining huge exposure for what rapidly became a cult favourite.

Created by comic book fanatic Loren, it gave him an outlet for his music fantasies, totally irreverent, unbelievable. His motto was "Unauthorized And Proud Of It".

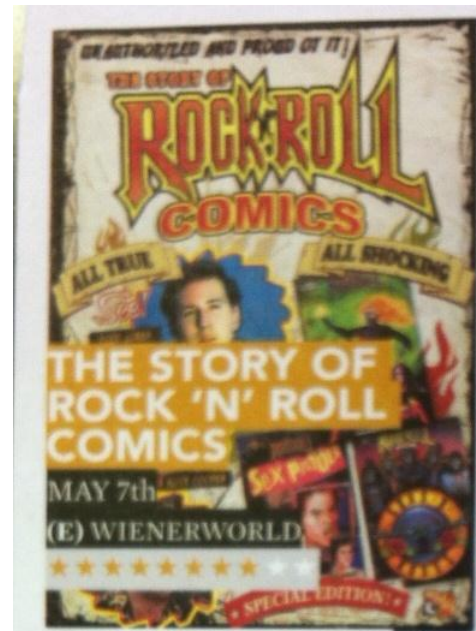
Bruce Springsteen was the initial subject, followed by all of the biggest names in rock music, including The Beatles, Pink Floyd, etc. Alice Cooper and Kiss were among those who loved it. Guns'N'Roses and New Kids On The Block were at the head of a long list of objectors.

Loren was living the r'n'r lifestyle in his mind, delving into and creating conspiracy theories. Little did he know he was to become his own mystery when he was stabbed 15 times and murdered in 1992.

This documentary lifts the lid on his life: contributors include Alice Cooper and Mojo Dixon, with loads of extras including news clips and an extended library of classic magazine covers.

Loved it, must check out more of the publications.
Jim Stewart 2012

Clash Magazine



THIS slick documentary examines the life and work of Todd Loren, whose series of unauthorised comic book biographies of famous rockers - including Jimi Hendrix, Guns n' Roses and Led Zeppelin - alternately captivated and infuriated its subjects. The much-sued Loren's life and career ended dramatically in 1992, murdered in mysterious circumstances. Told in lively animated style, the film is an ideal introduction to an underground icon: a welcome curiosity and testament to a life on the artistic fringes.

ROBERT W. MONK

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Tragic tale finally comes to DVD

A FILM about the life of a murdered comic book publisher is finally being released on DVD.

Unauthorized and Proud of It: The Story of Rock 'N' Roll Comics (Wienerworld), made in 2005, tells the story of controversial publisher Todd Loren.

Loren was born Stuart Loren Shapiro in 1960.

As a teenager, he promoted comic conventions and record collector shows in the Detroit area.

He moved to San Diego in the late 1980s and started Musicade, a mail-order music memorabilia company.

In 1989, he started Revolutionary Comics, which produced *Rock 'N' Roll Comics*, unauthorised comic book biographies of rock stars prompted in part by the success of an unauthorised Bruce Springsteen parody comic called *Hey Boss*.

He hired *Hey Boss* artist Larry Nadolsky to draw the first issue of *Rock 'N' Roll Comics*, which profiled Guns 'N' Roses.

Loren's father, Herb Shapiro was the president of the company operating Revolutionary Comics, Infinite One Inc.

Loren was also the first creator of the Carnal

Comics line.

In June 1992, at the age of 32, Loren was found stabbed to death in his San Diego condo.

The case remains unsolved.

Rock 'N' Roll Comics charmed some rock stars, including Kiss frontman Gene Simmons, Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia and Nick Mason, of Pink Floyd, but enraged others like Axl Rose, Bon Jovi, Skid Row and New Kids on the Block.

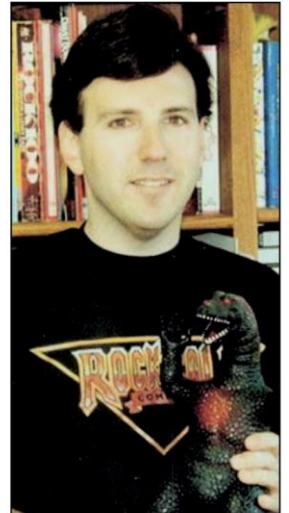
The Story of Rock 'N' Roll Comics includes investigative footage and interviews from artists including Mojo Nixon, Alice Cooper, Gary Groth, Ian

Shirley, Cynthia Plaster Caster and more.

The film details the San Diego police department's investigation into the murder, while interviews with Loren's co-workers and family suggest that the police failed to follow up on all available leads.

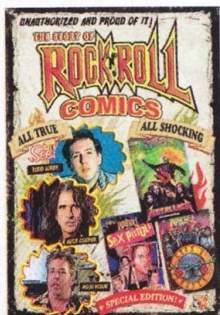
The DVD includes two hours of bonus features, extended interviews, TV news clips, commercials, trailers and a Revolutionary Comics/ Rock N Roll Comics cover art gallery.

There are also liner notes from *Rock 'N' Roll Comics* co-creator Jay Allen Sanford, as well as from rock critic Rob O'Connor.



TRAGIC: Todd Loren

UNCUT Magazine



6/10

THE STORY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS

WIENERWORLD

A look at the infamous rock history strips

This short, amateurish but intriguing documentary by Ilko Davidov tells the story of Revolutionary Comics, formed when Todd Loren began dramatising bands' life stories in comic form.

While some were happy with this – Gene Simmons and Jerry Garcia lent their support – others sent in the lawyers, making Loren an unexpected defender of free speech when he went to court against New Kids On The Block. Loren, whose iconoclastic attitude pissed off half the comics industry, was later murdered in 1992. The case was never solved – although serial killer Andrew Cunanan was a suspect.

EXTRAS: Bonus features, extended interviews, news clips. *PETER WATTS*

6/10

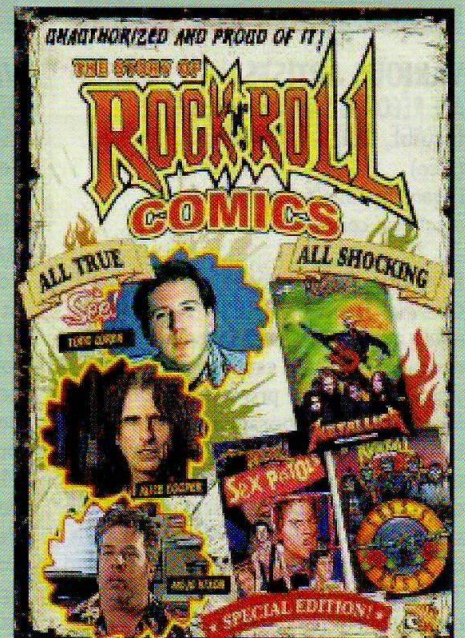
Vive Le Rock Magazine

THE STORY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS

(Wienerworld)
9/10

Todd Loren probably won't be a name familiar to most out there. And, to be honest, before I got this DVD to review I didn't know him from Adam. A publisher of unauthorised comic book biographies via his Revolutionary Comics stable, the Rock 'N' Roll Comics series charmed the likes of Frank Zappa and KISS, who were vocal in their support, while others, such as Axl Rose and Bon Jovi, sued him. Adult in nature, Loren's books were essentially bootlegs, but the style and sheer strangeness of them made them more than a quick cash-in: here was a man clearly in love with music and creating these funny books in tribute. Stabbed to death in 1992 by an unidentified assailant (some suspected that he was the first victim of serial killer Andrew Cunanan, who later murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace), Loren's all-too-brief life is remembered here in a mix of amateur home video, offbeat animation and interviews with the likes of Alice Cooper and Mojo Nixon. A fascinating look at a true maverick figure.

James Sharples



city nights



Compiled by Sammy Jones – email sammy.jones@jpress.co.uk or follow her on Twitter @sammyjonespress

Jurassic comp for Dino fans

FAVOURERS of seminal Washington-based noise-makers Dinosaur Jr have a new product to go spend their hard earned pennies on...

And this DVD package is for the fans, by the fans.

Six devotees were selected to film the DJ perform their classic Bug album in its entirety at Washington's 9:30 Club last summer.

They captured the live show before meeting J Mascis and Co. for exclusive interview time.

'In the hands of the Fans' is must-have:

We gave the release to one of our City Nights hounds to review and he watched it from start to finish without so much as a peep.

Then he watched it all over again in swift succession!

One of the band's most fervent fans is former Black Flag musician and occasional actor Henry Rollins.

He also gets decent time with director Dave Markey, and also speaks with the band on stage, pre-gig.

> The Story of Rock N Roll Comics takes a look at the short and controversial life of publisher Todd Loren who was favoured by some musicians (Gene Simmons and Jerry Garcia) and infuriated others (Axl Rose, Bon Jovi and erm, New Kids On The Block) with his unauthorized comic book biographies.

His mysterious death in 1992 proved just as colourful as the comics he was famed for.

Now, a new DVD mixes quirky animation, eerie home video and interviews galore to explore the man behind the visuals.

We have copies of both DVDs up for grabs in this week's double comp special.

Simply send your name and address on a postcard marked either Dino or Rock N Roll Comics and send to: Citizen Newsdesk, Napier House, Auckland Park, Bond Avenue, Bletchley, MK1 1BU.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 18.

First entries picked from the hat will win a copy of their specified choice.

The Story Of Rock'n'Roll Comics: Special Edition

★★★★

MVD Visual MVD 5348 D

Sex, drugs and unsolved murders

Back in 1989, Todd Loren saw a niche in the market for comic book biographies about rock bands and decided to fill it. The first issue to come from his Revolutionary Comics publishing venture covered Guns N'Roses' rock'n'roll antics; by the time of Loren's shocking, unsolved murder in 1992, Revolutionary Comics had published over 100 biographies of artists, from The Beatles to The Who. In 1990, Loren successfully fought a First Amendment legal battle against New Kids On The Block, guaranteeing freedom of speech in the medium of pencil, ink and speech bubble (the unauthorised status of his publications gave free rein to cover extensive drug use and infamous apocryphal stories – such fishy tales involving the likes of Led Zeppelin).

Upon its initial release in 2005, Ilko Davidov's no-holds-barred documentary was a fascinating insight into the links between music, art, commerce and comics. Footage of Loren reveals him to be a fascinating character, alternately viewed by his peers, collaborators and former employees as either a visionary or opportunist. This new DVD edition not only includes the original feature, but also two hours of bonus material, containing extended interviews with the likes of Alice Cooper, speculating as to who Loren's killer really was.

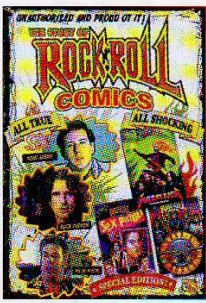
Ian Shirley



Shindig Magazine

The Story Of Rock 'n' Roll Comics

Wild Eye



Todd Loren was the mastermind behind the schlocky rock biographies put out by Rock 'n' Roll Comics in the late '80s and early '90s, which created a stir with their unauthorized nature

and near-the-knuckle story-telling. Loren had a simple yet brilliant idea – kids like comics, they like rock bands – so why not comics *about* rock bands? The brand received an early shot in the arm when Axl Rose threatened legal action over an early Guns 'n' Roses issue – thereby giving the company the oxygen of publicity and creating an instant collectors item as copies were snapped up in case of a complete pulping.

Alice Cooper and numerous talking heads give their take on Loren's run-ins with the record and comics industries and the company's numerous legal battles around copyright infringement. It's also good to see Ian Shirley here; whose book *Can Rock 'n' Roll Save The World?* is the perfect companion piece to this film. Much is made of Loren's crusading freedom-of-speech stance though the film can't quite decide if he was a first amendment freedom fighter or simply using the cover of the constitution to make a quick buck. Loren's unsolved murder in 1992 is also covered, rumoured to be the work of Versace's killer, Andrew Cunanan.

The production values aren't of the highest quality and the main feature barely runs 75 minutes, though it's fairly entertaining throughout. Ultimately this is certainly a story worth telling – an illuminative diversion in rock history.

Austin Matthews

Websites:

Rock Industry

<http://www.rockindustry.co.uk/2012/03/the-story-of-rock-n-roll-comics-dvd/> (review)

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Alice Cooper Fansite

<http://welcometomynightmare.co.uk/>

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<http://www.film-news.co.uk/show-competition.asp?H=Win-1-of-3-copies-of-The-Story-Of-Rock-N-Roll-Comics-on-DVD&nItemID=660>

Pop Culturez

<http://popculturez.com/dvd-review-feature-the-story-of-rock-n-roll-comics/>

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