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***Unauthorized* Plugs Into Rock 'n' Roll Comics' Controversial Past**

By [Scott Thrill](#)  February 21, 2012 | 7:41 pm | Categories: [Books and Comics](#), [movies](#), [music](#)



"Todd Loren, First Amendment advocate or lying sack of shit?" asks *The Comics Journal* publisher Gary Groth in the trailer for *Unauthorized: The Story of Rock 'N' Roll Comics*.

It's not Shakespeare, but it is the existential question behind director Ilko Davidov's 2005 documentary, out April 24 on DVD. It's also the enduring query surrounding the [mysteriously murdered Loren's](#) infamously unauthorized [Revolutionary Comics](#), which contained biographies of groundbreaking bands like The Grateful Dead and Pink Floyd (who liked his work) and lesser-known acts like Guns N' Roses and Bon Jovi (who eventually sued).

With input from Alice Cooper, Mojo Nixon and more, [Unauthorized: The Story of Rock 'N' Roll Comics](#) examines the California Supreme Court ruling that supported Loren's controversial comics. The documentary also looks into Loren's fatal 1992 stabbing, possibly committed by Gianni Versace's killer [Andrew Cunanan](#).

Unauthorized is a quirky, creepy peek into what Nixon calls the shared "underground, weirdo, nutjob subculture" of comics and rock. Screen the reel above and let us know your take on Revolutionary Comics' free-speech fandom in the comments section below.

- Scott Thrill