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MVD Visual Tells "The Story of Rock 'n' Roll Comics"

By

Upchuck Undergrind

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Truth is stranger than fiction, they say. And it's an adage that seems bound and determined to prove itself. Take, for example, the new documentary release from MVD Visual, THE STORY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS. It's more than just the tale of an indie comic label. There's lots of those. But how many indie comic labels are there – or were in this case – based entirely on the concept of unauthorized rock legend bios in the graphic arts medium??? That's exactly what comic entrepreneur Todd Loren did. And he covered some major acts in the world of rock and metal, as well as some vital, if less well-known, performers. What started out as an independent labor of love blew up into a 1st Amendment case after some big bands – like Guns N' Roses, for example (I always detected a degree of assholism there, if I may be forgiven a smidgeon of judgmentalism) – decided to sue Loren for his outrageous comic rock bios. The documentary is culled from a variety of sources; it's more than just dry interviews. Of course, there ARE interviews, but with the likes of Alice Cooper and Mojo Nixon – how cool is that? Plus, there's some creepinducing home video footage of Loren that really gets into the mind and ideas of this little-known but major cultural icon of the underground. There's even animation in the mix, so this doc has set out to be nothing if not creative – a fitting attitude given the subject matter. Bonus features include alternate intie footage, cover art gallery, liner notes from Rock 'N' Roll Comics partner-in-crime (it's an analogy, folks) Jay Allen Sanford, who, with Loren, helped found the series of comics. There's also a variety of television bits, commercials, etc. It's a nice package on an obscure but doubtless fascinating subject.

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