



ON THE MILE OF CARS IN NORMAN

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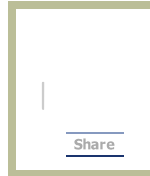
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Documentary

The Story of Rock 'n' Roll Comics



There's another comic-book movie out now beside 'The Avengers.'

Rod Lott
May 3rd, 2012

I grew up reading comic books — and today, occasionally make some extra dough writing for them — but I must admit, I've never heard of *Rock 'n' Roll Comics*, the underground sensation at the heart of this lo-fi documentary from Wild Eye Releasing. Turns out, not knowing matters not; hardcore comics fans — or those just into esoteric, DIY projects — should find it interesting, if told with a little true-to-spirit sloppiness.



The comics were "unauthorized and proud of it" biographies of famous bands, from KISS to New Kids on the Block, all printed by Todd Loren. They had their followers (Alice Cooper, Mojo Nixon, Cynthia Plaster Caster) and their detractors, resulting in plenty of legal issues (no pun intended). Was Loren, the film asks, a First Amendment advocate or a "lying sack of shit"? Or both?

I say "was," because the guy was stabbed to death in his apartment in 1992.

"Had he not been murdered," his father, Herb Shapiro, tells the camera, "he could've been one of the great men of the 21st century."

Even after viewing *The Story of Rock 'n' Roll Comics*, I can't share that sentiment, as the examples of *RnR* reveal the comics as cheap-looking, but competent enough. He employed some talented artists and writers who went on to bigger and better things ... but also screwed over said talented artists and writers. The books never quite broke into the mainstream marketplace because, as the doc states, they didn't fit in record stores, but didn't fit it comic stores, either.

Director Ilko Davidov briefly covers Loren's other publishing efforts, branching out into titles on sports, humor (*Barf*) and television (*Star Jam*), not to mention *Conspiracy Comics* and the erotic *Carnal Comics*, whose star attraction was Demi the Demoness. (I've never heard of her, either.)

Davidov overstates *RnR's* importance and impact — a glimpse of David Faustino reading a copy in one episode of *Married ... with Children* is hardly pop-culture acceptance — but that he chose to tell this story at all is admirable in itself. —Rod Lott

"Rock Paper Scissors: Based on a True Story"
Featuring works of Denise Duong and Matt Seikel. ...

"Reconsidering The Family of Man"
Photographic prints ...

"The Return of Elegance: An Evening Wear Collection"
29 evening gowns, accessories, footwear and evening bags, many worn by Oklahoma women at inaugural balls and society events. ...

"Will James: The Hays Collection"
Featuring art and memorabilia of the renowned Western artist. ...

"Respect Diversity Symbol Exhibit"
This exhibit features artwork created by students and inspired by historical, cultural, ethnic, and experiential perspectives. ...

"Mechanics and Invention: A Showcase of Rube Goldberg Projects"
This exhibit will display designs created by UCO design students that are inspired by Rube Goldberg (1883-1970), a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, sculptor and author who was best-known for his car ...

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Gazette in Ten Seconds

Fair is good.
Talk about a ruff recovery.
This Vision is Crystal-clear.
From farm to fork.
Hoagie's a hero.
Like 'Old School' meets The New Yorker.
Story of my life.