



Music Documentary Monday

Color Me Obsessed: A Film About the Replacements

Posted on November 19, 2012 by Daniel Dylan Wray

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Directed by Gorman Bechard
USA, 2011

Genre: Punk, Alternative/Indie,
Fan Documentary

“Kinda Brilliant. Kinda Dumb.
 Kinda the Replacements.”
 That’s the tag line for this
 account of the revered ’80s
 Minnesota rockers, whose rise,
 fall, frequent drunkenness, and
 enduring influence are graphed

in interviews with associates, musicians, critics, and just plain fans. The Replacements themselves are nowhere to be seen, or heard, but director Gorman Bechard’s unashamedly fan-based approach yields enough insight into the band, and why it generated such obsessive devotion, that they aren’t really missed – until a parade of people gush about the first time they listened to 1984’s *Let It Be* and you crave the opening bass line of “I Will Dare,” just to get into the same mindscape.

With scores of contributors, the film at times feels like one continuous anecdote, but maybe that’s the point. Being a project by fans for fans gives Color Me Obsessed an interesting arc: as the Replacements age and their sloppy punk becomes more polished, fan feelings diverge, some dropping out (a member of the Goo Goo Dolls recalls hearing *Don’t Tell a Soul* once and sailing it out the window), others staying true to the end. Tracking the band’s output album by album, even song by song, the movie flirts with tedium (especially for the uninitiated), but the passion on display is intoxicating, and the stories of the band’s impact on people’s lives are often moving.

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In essence, if you love the Replacements and cherish long talks about what they mean to you, this film will be like hugging a long-lost friend. If you like the band a lot but were born in, say, the year their fourth album came out (like me), it's more like a firm handshake or high five from a buddy.

Color Me Obsessed: A Film About the Replacements comes out on DVD November 20. Daniel David Wray is a music and film writer in Sheffield, UK, and editor of the online magazine [Kicking Against the Pricks](#), in which a [longer version](#) of this review originally appeared.

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