

Reviews & Columns

Reviews

- [DVD](#)
- [TV on DVD](#)
- [Blu-ray](#)
- [International DVDs](#)
- [Theatrical](#)
- [Adult](#)
- [Video Games](#)

Features

- [Collector Series DVDs](#)
- [Easter Egg Database](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [DVD Talk Radio](#)
- [Feature Articles](#)

Columns

- [Anime Talk](#)
- [Xcritic.com](#)
- [DVD Stalk](#)
- [DVD Savant](#)
- [High-Def Revolution](#)
- [Silent DVD](#)

DVD Talk Forum

Select Forum Area... ▾

Resources

- [DVD Price Search](#)
- [Customer Service #'s](#)
- [RCE Info](#)
- [Links](#)

DVDTalk Info

- [Review Staff](#)
- [About DVD Talk](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Newsletter Subscribe](#)
- [Join DVD Talk Forum](#)
- [DVD Talk Feeds](#)



[Get DVD Talk Feeds](#)

Special Offer

TOPS ▶
\$17



BOTTOMS ▶
\$19

Search: For:

[Reviews](#) » [DVD Video Reviews](#) » [Welcome To The Machine](#)

Welcome To The Machine

[MVD Entertainment Group](#) // Unrated // August 6, 2013

List Price: \$16.95 [Buy now and save at [Amazon](#)]

36 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Review by [Bill Gibron](#) | posted October 6, 2013 | [E-mail the Author](#)

THE FILM:

Though more and more it seems like the superficial trumps talent, one has to acknowledge that skill and artistry go a long way toward helping someone achieve their artistic dreams. If you can't paint, you can't be Picasso. If you can't write, you won't be Thomas Pynchon. Dancers need the grace of Fred Astaire and the physicality of Gene Kelly (or Twyla Tharp) or they might as well be grinding on the pole, and unless you're rip-roaringly hilarious, or capable of easily masking a lack of same, standup comedy just isn't your thing. Music, on the other hand, has never been plagued by a need for ability. Don't believe it? Here's one word for you - Ke\$ha. While there have always been manufactured teen idols and corporate controlled pop/rock/soul/rap, the new millennium has seen technological advances turn even the most unlikely of caterwauling candidates into American (and world) idols. Can't sing? Auto-tune. Can't play? Hire sessions musicians. Can't craft a decent melody? Hire a slew of writers to build up your Billboard position and your I Heart Radio bottom line.

It is into this world of weird processed dos and donts that German documentarian Andreas Steinkogler enters to take on what Pink Floyd and others have often referred to as "The Machine." Indeed, his film even borrows the title from that *Wish You Were Here* track, though by doing so it competes with a few other features with a similar name. Heck, Floyd even has one. Still, what **Welcome to the Machine** hopes to achieve is a kind of perfected primer on how to make it in the cutthroat music biz. It offers up the "12 Commandments" of maneuvering this den of gypsies, tramps, and thieves while offering up some firsthand advice and anecdotal proof from the likes of Glenn Hughes and Cypress Hill, all in the service of following a new band (calling themselves 'The New Vitamin,' with all short vowels) as they try to break in...or out...or whatever. The result is a compelling if often scattered overview of how hard it is to become a major music star. Even those who've already attained said status seem convinced that, sans a miracle, only a fool would rush into such a shitstorm.

The New Vitamin don't help matters much. They're dour and seemingly undisciplined, convinced of their brilliance with little to back it up. Granted, no band is fully formed right out of the box (ask The Beatles circa Hamburg, or working with Tony Sheridan) and they may require the payment of significant dues before they get what they believe is coming to them, but for the most part, Steinkogler could have put anyone in their place and come up with something as unlikely - and unlikeable. On the plus side, this director gets a lot of quality interviews, including sit-downs with Fatboy Slim, Lydia Lunch (Yeah!), Kim Wilde (double Yeah!), and Megadeth, just to name a few. All have fascinating insights into how they "became" names, including the tireless hours, the horrible conditions, and the constant threat of forces outside (read: managers and record company executives) who will undermine your potential ride down easy street the first chance they get. Frankly, there should have been more of this in **Welcome to the Machine**. It's the main point Pink Floyd was rallying against.

Still, don't sell **Welcome to the Machine** short. It may have its flaws, but as clear labors of love go, this one attempts to service its defined purpose. One is unsure of how much a new group, unfamiliar with the ins and outs of our new digital download iTunes world and just eager to get people to hear them, will learn from this lengthy dissertation and the discussions with those on the very fringes themselves could act as a caution against even making the effort to try. On the other hand, Steinkogler believes in the points he is making and finds enough mutual agreement among the various artists and industry types to sell us as well. But let's get one thing straight, **Welcome to the Machine** should come with a warning sticker ala the FDA, making sure that potential superstars understand that there really are no guarantees when it comes to the fickle finger of fate known as making it big in music. Usually, talent trumps such unimportant concepts as Image and Exposure, but in the case of ascending the charts, the mechanism of the Machine remain geared toward the superficial, not the substantive.

THE DVD:

Popular Reviews



- [The World's End](#)
- [Twilight Forever: The Complete Saga](#)
- [Night of the Comet](#)
- [Under the Dome](#)
- [Maniac Cop 2](#)
- [The Other](#)
- [Russian Ark: Anniversary Edition](#)
- [The Best Years of Our Lives](#)
- [Jumper 3D](#)
- [Mad Men: Season Six](#)



CONTENT
★★★★★

VIDEO
★★★★★

AUDIO
★★★★★

EXTRAS
★★★★★

REPLAY
★★★★★

ADVICE
Recommended

E-MAIL
[this review to a friend](#)

PRINT
[Printer Friendly](#)

Special Offers



Offered in a decent DVD package, *Welcome to the Machine* is not going to win any awards when it comes to tech specs. The various footages and formats would normally require a massive remaster to make them look 100% polished. In this case, the 1.78:1 anamorphic widescreen is watchable, but light years away from reference quality. The sound, on the other hand, is much better. Sure, some of the interviews suffer from some occasional off-the-cuff qualities, but for the most part, the aural aspects of this release are quite good. On the down side, the subtitles are in all white, and when shown up against some of the backdrops here, they instantly become unreadable. As Criterion will tell you, yellow is the way to go, font color wise. As for added content, none was provided. While this critic is sure he received final product on this release, he is unsure if the intent was to leave the film itself without significant bonus supplementation.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

A dream is a dream, no matter how ridiculous it seems to those not sharing it. Those who want to be in the music business clearly have their hopes on being smart enough, savvy enough, and solid enough to avoid the various pitfalls proposed in **Welcome to the Machine**. Andreas Steinkogler's film is a good place to start, a launching pad of sorts to get your well worn desires off the ground and in the air. **Recommended**, though not really entertaining beyond its intended niche audience, this insightful glimpse into the backstage and backstabbing business called show is good, if not great. Clearly, those speaking from experience had the chops to make it happen. Those who can or do not should perhaps apply elsewhere.

Want more Gibrion Goodness? Come to Bill's TINSEL TORN REBORN Blog (Updated Frequently) and Enjoy! [Click Here](#)

What Do You Think?



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Micah Smith (Not you?)

Comment

Warning: <http://www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/61765/welcome-to-the-machine> is unreachable.

Facebook social plugin

DVD Blowouts

1. [Downton Abbey Seasons 1 & 2 Limited Edition Set - Original UK Version](#)
Buy: ~~\$59.99~~ **\$44.99**
2. [Saving Private Ryan \(Sapphire Series\) \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$24.99~~ **\$16.91**
3. [Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burqundy \(Unrated Widescreen Edition\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$12.98~~ **\$7.83**
4. [Swamp People: Season 1](#)
Buy: ~~\$24.98~~ **\$5.99**
5. [The Odd Life of Timothy Green](#)
Buy: ~~\$29.99~~ **\$17.99**
6. [Bambi \(Two-Disc Edition\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$29.99~~ **\$18.33**
7. [Alien \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$19.99~~ **\$9.99**
8. [Gi Joe: The Rise of Cobra \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$22.98~~ **\$12.99**
9. [Brazil \(Criterion Collection\) \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$49.95~~ **\$27.99**
10. [American Beauty \(Widescreen Edition\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$12.99~~ **\$9.99**

Special Offers

Discotek & Eastern Star
SALE
Save At Least
40% OFF
Blu-ray & DVD Titles
THROUGH NOV. 11, 2013



[Welcome To The Machine](#)

Fatboy Slim, Cypre...

Best Price **\$3.00**
or Buy New **\$16.95**

Buy **amazon.com** from

[Privacy Information](#)

[Release List](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Shop](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Forum](#)

[DVD
Giveaways](#)

[Blu-Ray](#)

[Advertise](#)

Copyright 2013 DVDTalk.com All Rights Reserved. [Legal Info](#), [Privacy Policy](#), [Terms of Use](#)

