



Music Video Distributors - MVD for short - is the faithful manufacturer of rock docs (among other things) covering all corners of music from all angles. Or nearly all, anyway. MVD is a steady supplier of a large and eclectic canon of music movies, it's ever-growing catalog a chalice with an overflowing brim. Some are straight-forward but in-depth docs while others are creative new approaches to understanding classic music, underground and mainstream. Quality, coverage and content vary widely, naturally, though I've never seen a bad rockumentary from them, that I can recall. That's why you can find everything from The Melvins to The Beatles as subjects of their cinema of song. Fans of rock docs will find a little slice of heaven at MVD.

Three new releases from the distro slash moviemaking company illustrate the above-lauded eclecticism demonstrated consistently by Music Video Distributors. Just telling you what they are gives you an idea of MVD's dedication to entertainment from any direction. Two of the three releases are of the rock doc type, as discussed above. The third is a batch of episodes from The Edie Adams Television Collection. A company with a broad scope, huh?

We'll come back around to vintage TV shortly. First let's tackle the musical goods of which I've said much already.

COSMIC PSYCHOS screams the top of the DVD cover. To reassure us, the subtitle is BLOKES YOU CAN TRUST. Then, to hook us in, the sub-subtitle: 30 YEARS AND A MILLION BEERS WITH AUSTRALIA'S MOST UNLIKELY ROCK AND ROLL HEROES. From director Matt Weston comes this look at the rollicking, rockin' good times on tap from Down Under musical purveyors and good time lovers, the Cosmic Cowboys. Famous in rock culture for their brash sound, the band was equally well-known for its prodigious appetite for alcohol. This just goes to prove that booze and rock go together. Sex, drugs and rock-n-roll, right? Well, alcohol is a drug. :) Moving on ... to build a case for the Cosmic Rockers' significance (for those of us uninitiated), director Matt Weston trots out some damning evidence. Interviews with famous fans include talks with Eddie Vedder, the Melvins, Mudhoney and more, plus inties with major producers like Steve Albini and Butch Vig. You may be seeing a trend, and you'd be right. Cosmic Cowboys hit hard in the Seattle scene, getting the chance to open for Pearl Jam and even going so far as to influence Nirvana! This DVD journey even boasts a foray into New York houses of S&M - escorted by the Cosmic Cowboys, of course. This one'll make a splash with grunge rockers and indie fans generally.

Vital stats: Umbrella Entertainment, 1.77:1 widescreen, 91 min., color

GET RICH OR TRY LYING is the terrific tagline for THE GREAT HIP HOP HOAX, a film by Jeanie Finlay which lays out - for the first time? - the full story behind trickster musicians Silibil N' Brains. To fans, they were a pair of peeps from Los Angeles, white, sure, but homeboys regardless. Their fusion of rock and hip hop stylings made for a unique sound. It got attention. But it was all an act ... Sure, you say. A rock slash rap act, right? There's more to the story than that - and that's what this music doc is about. See, these guys were anything but homies from the City of Angels. In fact, they hailed from Scotland. So what would prompt these two folks to pull up stakes, cross the Atlantic AND the United States and set up musical shop in L.A.? How about three little words: "the rapping Proclaimers." That was the description applied to the band's sound. It was enough to get them thinking and thinking was enough to inspire Billy Boyd and Gavin Bain to move from their homeland of Scotland all the way to California to kick off the next level stage of their career. Wanna know more? Now you know where to look!

Vital stats: MVD Visual, 88 min.

Now then. It's time to jump in your time machines and set them for way back. Well, not too way back, perhaps. But back. Meet Edie Adams. Multi-talented entertainer. She was an actress, having the distinction of appearing in such films as "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World". She was a singer, and a good one. I'll put it this way: She studied at Juilliard! Surprisingly (for modern sensibilities), she was the spokeswoman for Muriel Cigars - back when you could advertise tobacco on television. Here famous line - "Why don't you pick one up and smoke it sometime" - was certainly sensual and probably enough for the time to get a few males hot under the collar. I wonder how many cigars her purr sold. Edie was also funny, being a skilled comedienne who worked with husband Ernie Kovacs on his seminal television comedy programs. So what do you do with a woman as beautiful, alluring and talented as this? Why, let her host her own TV show! And that's what happened, with Ms. Adams charming a whole nation through the boob tube from 1962 to 1964. She was the perfect piece to hold it all together. All? What all? This: Edie's guests during the run of "Here's Edie" and "The Edie Adams Show" included such megastars as swing doctors Duke Ellington and Count Basie, musical masters Bobby Darin and Johnny Mathis, another multi-talent by the name of Sammy Davis Jr., Columbo star Peter Falk, famous funny guy Bob Hope and MORE! These riveting live performances are found on this four-disc set compiling all 21 episodes of these shows, plus musical performances by Edie on her husband's shows. It's a big package and the first time the complete "Here's Edie" programs have been released. Sure to please fans of vintage TV.

Vital stats: MVD Visual, 720 min., 4:3 ratio

For more information on these and other MVD releases, visit www.musicvideodistributors.com



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