



Documentary Spotlight: Gourds, Wings, Magicians, Manhunts & Informants

POSTED BY KEN MURRAY ON NOVEMBER 24, 2013 IN REVIEWS



Main Plot Points:

For nearly two decades, the Gourds have been the musical distillation of Austin itself: A label-defying, unpretentious, gregarious gang of friends whose primary motive is to have fun and create great music together. *ALL THE LABOR* captures The Gourds' enduring brotherhood and magnetic musicianship through candid conversations, raucous performances, on-tour media interviews and reflections and insight from friends and family. Blazing performances and candid interviews convey the life, labor and brotherhood of the Gourds, an Austin band beloved around the world for its genre-jumping music and unpretentious vibe.

What We Thought:

All the Labor is a pretty decent music documentary about a band I had never heard of. The band reminded me of a mix of Barenaked Ladies, Mumford & Sons and Phish. The Gourds had a "hit" with a cover of Snoop Dogg's Gin & Juice. It was one of the most downloaded songs on Napster back in the day, unfortunately nobody knew who it was and bands like Phish were credited with it. Maybe we would all know who the band is today if it was credited properly. There are no bonus features on this DVD.

Main Plot Points:

The true life story of legendary flying pioneer, American hero and Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Jimmy Doolittle, is told with by Gardner Doolittle with Jimmy's approval. The film tracks the life of this American hero from childhood through his record breaking 1922 coast-to-coast flight, his earning of a Doctorate at MIT, his development of "instrument-only" flying, his military roles in the Invasion of Normandy, throughout WWII and his incredible role in the raid on Tokyo and more.

What We Thought:

I knew of him, but *Wings of a Warrior: The Jimmy Doolittle Story* taught me a lot more. What I found fascinating was how often he crashed before becoming a war time hero. Doolittle lead the first major victor for the US against Japan in World War II. I never realized that the man was pretty much a genius and went on to be important in aviation after the war as well. The film would be great for libraries or as a teacher's aid although the narrator of the documentary was very monotone and boring. Bonus Features: Interview with Gardner Doolittle.

