

street SOUNDS

Issue 9, November 2014

£2.00

DVD REVIEW

Looking for Johnny: The Legend of Johnny Thunders (Jungle, 2014) ***

The life and times of Johnny Thunders, though cut short in 2001, were eventful enough to fill an HBO series, let alone a feature film. A New York Doll, a Heartbreaker and a junkie; sometimes heralded as the key influence of British punk, sometimes blamed for (literally) injecting heroin into the London punk scene and, by extension, filling the body bags. Whatever, there's no doubting his brilliance as a guitarist and, when not dribbling, a song-writer of seedy aplomb. This Jungle documentary tells the tale well, cashing in a veritable who's who of talking heads (Sylvain Sylvain, Lenny Kaye, Lee Childers etc.) to fill in the gaps between the photos and clips of archive footage. It's a tragic tale overall – but that we knew already. But the clips are great to watch, especially the opening sequence of 1970s New York in all its faded glory, and the film makes you want to get the old records out – perhaps the ultimate sign of time well spent. *Matt Worley*