



DVD REVIEW

The Smiths

Inside The Smiths

TIB Street (MVDV4676)

Grade: ★★

Watching this hastily assembled and cheaply put-together DVD, it soon becomes obvious why singer Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr got all the attention: They were the interesting ones.

This not-even-an-hour-long documentary focuses on The Smiths' rhythm section, bassist Andy Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce. And, like all guys shoved out of the spotlight by the more charismatic and creative types, they're kind of bitter. They have kind words to say about each other, but both agree that Morrissey is a bit of a pain in the ass (really?). "Inside The Smiths'" filmmakers shoot Rourke and Joyce in a cemetery, round up interviews with members of The Buzzcocks and New Order, and dwell on Rourke's drug problem. But no actual Smiths songs are heard.

Segments are bridged by anonymous jangly guitar notes that sound like something Marr might have played before practices, and there's no footage of the band — just a few old publicity photos. Heaven knows it's miserable.

— Michael Gallucci