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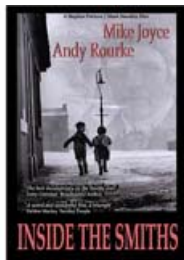
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Inside The Smiths DVD

Posted : Sat, Nov 10th, 2007 10:21:25



The Smiths

Inside The Smiths DVD

MVD

Review By : Colm Field

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The story of THE SMITHS hasn't exactly been under-discussed. Barely a week passes without a spaced-out, croaky-voiced Manc offering his views on a reunion, that court case, or the unexpected LA-based Latino following. However, this is the first proper Smiths biography to be released on DVD, and as drummer Mike Joyce himself promises, this time he and Andy Rourke are 'gonna tell ya how it was' themselves.

This will be an absolute must-buy for fans of The Smiths, who love band stories like Richard Branson loves public transport - unremittingly despite the fact it will never be enough. I'm sorry to say that this will be both fantastic and frustrating for Smiths addicts, and pointless to the unconverted. There are, however, priceless anecdotes here (the best involving Andy Rourke tripping the light fantastic).

Of most interest of course is the insight into the Morrissey genius. He has clearly offended his subordinates in the band but they, admirably, do not seek revenge by downplaying his genius. This perspective on the man's exceptional lyrical abilities, not to mention his even greater ego hits the nail on the head better than any previous documentary. The comments on Marr's music are the same, his deep, soulful melodies noted.

The discussion of the two personalities varies greatly. Marr is given an impeccable personality reference - alongside his melody making abilities, Rourke and Joyce wax lyrical on his charisma. Morrissey, on the other hand, is given such a timid remembrance ('he was a delicate flower' being the harshest view) that one can't help but feel somewhat short-changed. The 'gang mentality' expounded by Rourke is very honourable but is possibly not an entirely accurate portrayal. This is still a treasure trove for fans. Rourke and Joyce are the second best tellers of this story, after all.

Unfortunately, after being tantalised with a potential 'How Soon Is Now?' and behind-the-scenes photographs, it is a massive disappointment to find a generic soundtrack. This is unauthorised by the two majors of the band, which of course means no interviews and, worse, no Smiths tracks. Until Messrs. M and M settle their differences, no Smithsumentary can emerge with those key ingredients of any rock video, bitching from the leaders and music from the band. This is the best Smiths documentary so far, and does offer insight previously hidden from the fans. If not familiar with the band, however, buy their albums instead.

Track List:

Running Time: 52 mins

→ For more information on The Smiths see [The Smiths on Wikipedia](#)

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