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Inside The Smiths

By Cheryl Cheng -- Video Business, 1/7/2008

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> Partial look inside influential rock group The Smiths.

The title of this documentary is somewhat misleading, as the film features interviews with only bassist Andy Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce of The Smiths. Therefore, with the absence of singer Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr, *Inside The Smiths* doesn't even begin to provide a complete look at this influential '80s British band. But the film does give some background into the band members' relationships with one another, what Rourke and Joyce thought of the occasionally difficult Morrissey and their points of view on the band's break-up. Rourke also discusses his heroin addiction, which nearly led to him being permanently kicked out of The Smiths. Another shortcoming of this film is the absence of any Smiths songs (the film rights for which were undoubtedly unavailable or denied), relying instead on a soundtrack by such contemporary bands as Doves.

Shelf Talk: Though The Smiths broke up in 1987, the band is still prominent today, providing the soundtrack for such recent films as *Starter for 10* and *This is England*. Followers of the band will be interested in this title, especially since Rourke and Joyce have not been heard from in recent years. *Inside The Smiths* also can be promoted alongside Morrissey's upcoming tour and album releases, while Marr is still active, recently teaming with indie rock group Modest Mouse.

Documentary, color, NR (nothing offensive), 52 min., DVD \$16.95
 Extras: additional scenes
 Director: Stephen Petricco
 First Run: DVD premiere

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