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### 'The Beatles: Rare and Unseen'

(Phil Collins, Gerry Marsden, et al / DVD / N 2009 / MVD Visual)

**Overview:** 'Beatles: Rare and Unseen' documents the career of the greatest rock band in history. It utilizes footage that has not been seen by the public, and features contributions by a number of insiders including Tony Barrow and Tony Brown.

**DVD Verdict:** This DVD program is only 46 minutes long, and appears to be a Cable TV document on VH1. My major issue with it though is why

the program is made up entirely of vintage 1:33-1 footage produced in 1:85-1 which only cuts off the top & bottom of the classic footage we are watching this is the fault of the producers involved in this!

Anyway, the entire show is made up of rare B&W and Color silent home movies shot by the Beatles themselves. Early mute concert footage (of which no commercial recording is known) and on-the-set of Magical Mystery Tour footage are included. The bulk of this would have been better as bonus material on a Magical Mystery Tour DVD than as the main focus of the DVD.

The home movies are professionally transferred to video and look fairly good, but the films should have been cleaned first. At times the interview is superimposed over the rare home movies, often blocking out the Beatles in the shot. This may be frustrating, but don't worry, the footage will be repeated (and repeated, and repeated) without the interview intrusion. Yes, the show is padded by repeating the footage.

Phil Collins is one of the interviewed, but I found nothing new in the interview. The interview is fast-forwarded until new home movie footage appeared. Oh, yes, John Lennon is interviewed through old film clips, and unfortunately they are very BRIEF. The DVD has bonus interviews that did not make it into the final cut of the show.

- (Director - 'While She Was Out')
- Jeffrey Dean Morgan ('Watchmen')
  - Danielle Panabaker ('Friday the 13th')
  - Bruce Campbell ('Burn Notice')
  - Dennis Quaid ('The Express')
  - Jeremy Irons ('Appaloosa')
  - Debra Messing ('The Starter Wife')
  - Ray Winstone ('Indiana Jones & Crystal Skull')
  - Sarah Jessica Parker ('Sex And The City')
  - Matt Aselton (Writer/Director - 'Gigantic')
  - Michael A. Levine (Composer - 'Cold Case')
  - Dolph Lundgren ('The Final Inquiry')
  - Mark Snow (Composer - 'X-Files 2')
  - Christophe Beck (Composer - 'Buffy - The Score')
  - John Debney (Composer - 'Swing Vote')
  - Jim and Maureen Tusty ('The Singing Revolution')
  - Bear McCreary (Composer - 'Rest Stop 2')
  - Renee Mazer ('Wordgasm')
  - Brian Langsbard (MLB All-Star Game Composer)
  - Guillermo Del Toro (Director - 'The Orphanage')
  - John Kassir ('Tales From The Crypt')
  - Mitch Albom ('For One More Day')
  - Lisa Jackson (Author - 'Lost Souls')
  - Andy Dick ('Danny Roane: Part I')
  - Andy Dick ('Danny Roane: Part II')
  - Rey Mysterio ('WWE: The Biggest Little Man')
  - John Cena
  - Crosby Loggins
  - One eskimO
  - Slayer
  - All That Remains
  - John Leckie (Stone Roses - Producer)

special, but most glaringly missing is the complete John Lennon Interview is a Widescreen presentation (1.78:1) enhanced for 16x9 TVs and comes with Special Features of:

Earliest known footage of the Beatles on stage in Liverpool February 1964. Only existing film on tour in Scotland - Caird Hall, Dundee October 1964 Bahamas, February 1965 during the filming of Help! September 1967 in Newquay whilst filming Magical Mystery Tour Home movie footage from Paris Olympia Theatre January 1964 Highlights of interview with John Lennon recorded in New York for Fren

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