

'Rare and Unseen: Unofficial Account of the Biggest Band in the World,' The Beatles (MVDvisual, 3 and a half stars)

This early August DVD has been here for a few weeks, for a different reason: the "unofficial" tag usually denotes inferior footage. There is some of that in this (made for TV?) presentation helmed by Tony Barrow; but it's cool to watch and listen to a number of Brits (including Norman Smith, Phil Collins, and Steve Harley), a few Americans and one former French chanteuse talk about how great the boys were with theories about why they transcended their time so well.

The footage mainly comes from home movie footage shot by various people, including a little bit by various Beatles themselves.

Ricky Flake