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The Beatles: Rare and Unseen (MVD Visual DVD, NR, 90 min. with extras). Apart from the annoying introduction and intros and outros where apparently commercials were included, this is merely an OK look at the Beatles. Some of its rare footage -- like the home movies the band made while vacationing in the Channel Islands -- I have seen before, but there is a bit of a February 1962 concert (the first time they were filmed on stage), bits of a Scottish tour and stuff filmed at the Olympia Theatre in Paris by Mickey Jones, drummer with Trini Lopez who was also on the bill. Of course, with all of these who don't actually hear the Beatles due to contractual matters. The interviews include Sylvie Vartan (also on the Olympia bill), Jones, first drummer Colin Hanton, band press officer Tony Barrow (he also writes the liner notes) and musicians Gerry Marsden (of Gerry & The Pacemakers, who toured with the Beatles), Phil Collins (Genesis drummer) and Steve Harley (founder of the Cockney Rebels). It is a mixed bag, but watchable -- except for the annoying intros that sound more like they are selling you the DVD. **Grade: C+**

- Tom Von Malder