



This is the second documentary made about now-legendary outsider artist/musician Wesley Willis. As Willis was the creator of more than 50 albums of rock poetry, it was understandable that the first documentary – 2003's *The Daddy of Rock 'n' Roll* – focused more on his music. *Joy Rides*, though, provides a more holistic portrait of Willis via interviews with collaborators, friends, family members and Willis himself. It's not well-known that Willis initially gained notoriety in Chicago from his sidewalk omnipresence selling pen-and-ink drawings of the city's skyline. Directors Chris Bagley and Kim Shively go deep into this phase of Willis' life, and among the illuminating facts they put forth is that Willis was serious about studying to be an architect. The music came later, and Bagley and Shively put it into its correct context, treating Willis' story with a sense of dignity and gentle humor.