

# MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL

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**BRING ME  
THE HEAD  
OF GENE SISKEL  
CAROLYN KEDDY**

*The Velvet Underground: Under Review* is another one of those unauthorized DVDs that lets you know up front that no one involved with the band gave permission to make this, but they did it any way. The idea is to get a bunch music critics, some members of the band and a couple of people who were around when the band was playing to discuss the history of the band and their recordings. I always laugh at these types of documentaries. There is nothing like so-called "Velvet Underground expert" Sal Mercuri telling you what the band intended while they were recording to get you yelling at a TV screen. Or worse, recording engineer Joe Harvard showing you how Lou Reed plays guitar.

That is half the fun of these things. If you have never heard the music of the Velvet Underground, these opinions might be interesting to you. You probably wouldn't be reading *Maximum Rocknroll* anyway. So every time one of these critics comes on screen, make sure you yell out loud what an idiot he is. It is best to view this in a large group with plenty of refreshments. When Village Voice critic Robert Christgau gets on screen talking about how amazing he finds VU, you just have to yell out, "What did you give them in your review, a B+?"

Then there are the other aspects of *The Velvet Underground: Under Review* that is much more interesting. Band members Moe Tucker and Doug Yule discuss the band's music and what it was like playing during that time. Factory member Billy Name recalls making the covers for the band's albums, both with Andy Warhol and without. Steve Nelson, former manager of The Boston Tea Party where VU played when they stopped playing shows in New York, talks about the atmosphere in Boston in those days and the band's overwhelming success in that city.

Then there is the music and live footage of the band back in the day. It is too bad they couldn't get Lou Reed and John Cale to do interviews. I guess then it would have been an authorized biography and where is the fun in that? ([mvdb2b.com](http://mvdb2b.com))

I am always looking for films to review. If you made one, send a copy to me c/o MRR, PO Box 460760, San Francisco, CA 94146-0760. E-mail me at [carolynmrr@juno.com](mailto:carolynmrr@juno.com) if you have a film screening in San Francisco. I will go see it.