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Frank Zappa & The Mothers Of Invention In The 1960's (MVD DVD)

Picture: C+ Sound: C+ Extras: C Main Program: B

Many Frank Zappa titles have already arrived on DVD, but of the documentary types, **Frank Zappa & The Mothers Of Invention In The 1960's** just edges out the **Classic Albums** installment that included coverage of **Over-Nite Sensation** (1973) and **Apostrophe** (1974) in one program. It is longer, covers a longer period of time, deals with his amazing road to critical and some commercial success and deals with all the live shows and the reactions thereof. Though he dismissed the band by the end of the decade, I was hoping we'd hear more about **200 Motels**, but it was likely excluded since it was not issued until 1971.

Once again, you get a ton of great interviews, rare footage, stills and other items that give you insight into the man, his one-time band, his life and music that shows just how groundbreaking he was, they were and the effect they had on so much talent around them. The debut album, **Freak Out** gets a nice early chunk of the 138 minutes of this never-boring program, but the highlight for me was the coverage of how **We're In It For The Money** was made, how The Beatles objected to cover art intended to spoof **Sgt. Pepper's** (Zappa even found the guy who did the printing of the original to get the colors the same) and how it was only allowed to be inside the album packaging at the time.

It also shows how radical he really was, but the program sticks with the band, so for instance, we do not get to hear about his appearance in Bob Rafelson's **Head**, the 1968 debut of the director (**Five Easy Pieces**) making the only film The Monkees ever made together. Guess they had to make cuts somewhere considering the length and diehard fans will still likely think this is only a crash course of some kind. However, produced by the same group that does the **Under Review** series, it is must-see viewing even if you don't like Zappa and company, because it does such a fine job covering the period and music.

The 1.33 X 1 image varies as usual like all documentaries, but quality is good considering the age of some of the film and black and white videotape and they paid their music and video royalties for this one as usual. Detail limits are there, but that older footage is in decent shape. The Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo is sufficient and plays the music back just fine. Extras include extended interviews and text on the contributors.

For more on Zappa, try these links:

Baby Snakes (feature film)

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/678/Baby+Snakes>

Classic Albums: Frank Zappa – Apostrophe + Over-Nite Sensation

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/6312/Classic+Albums:++Frank+Zappa>

Halloween (high definition sound DVD-Audio format)

[http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/406/Frank+Zappa+-+Halloween+\(DVD-Audio\)](http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/406/Frank+Zappa+-+Halloween+(DVD-Audio))

QuAUDIOPHILIAC (high definition sound DVD-Audio format)

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- Nicholas Sheffo

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- > GREEK – Chapter Two + The Secret Life of the American Teenager – Season One (ABC/Disney DVDs)
- > Tommy Boy – Holy Schnike Edition (Paramount Blu-ray)
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