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Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention in the 1960s makes a point of declaring that it is not authorized by the Zappa estate, which is probably a good thing or else the story of Zappa's legendary band might not be fairly presented. That's not to say this is a slander, but rather a warts and all look at a historic and somewhat unknown episode of American music history, replete with rare footage and performances that no Zappa fan will want to miss. It's a bit much to bite off if you're watching it without any foothold in the era -- some background in the personalities and the milieu is helpful to not get lost, particularly as this is a pretty long (134 minutes) film. But it's worth the effort just the same.

- Wade Major