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There's nothing scarier than seeing "This film is not authorized..." on a

DVD biography or documentary. It's usually a sign that you're about to sit through an hour and a half of boring interviews and fuzzy paparazzi footage, little of which features the person or people the DVD is supposedly about. In simpler terms: a bio DVD is usually just some no-name company's way of making a few quick bucks. But that really isn't the case with *Depeche Mode - The Dark Progression*. As the viewer settles down to watch this "unauthorized documentary," it quickly becomes apparent that the filmmakers actually have a sense of adoration for the group.



Love 'em or hate 'em, Depeche Mode is still going strong after all these years. I myself am a huge fan of the group. Have been ever since my older brother turned me onto them in the early '80s. At the



time, I was still in grade school, and still rather oblivious to the world around me. I could understand the lyrics, but the meaning of the lyrics sometimes eluded me (I'm still kind of that way, to be honest). But, no matter what their songs were about, Depeche Mode's minor chord-structured tunes always seemed to inhabit a darker side of my tender psyche -- and, as a kid who was pretty much in the dark from day one (in every sense), they always appealed to me more than The Smiths or The Cure did (two of my other faves back in the day).

As anyone who has ever compared the group's initial 1981 album *Speak & Spell* to the recent 2009 release of *Sounds Of The Universe* will know, Depeche Mode's sound has changed considerably over the years. What started out as just another synthpop band from the fabulous era of New Romanticism became one of the world's most influential and iconic groups. But, how did these things come to pass? Well, good news, there's a whole 97-minute documentary to let you know!

Depeche Mode - The Dark Progression is a compilation of newly recorded interviews with former DM producers/collaborators (including Gareth Jones and Dave Bascombe), other favorite '80s musicians (such as Gary Numan, Thomas Dolby, and Andy McCluskey from OMD), along with critics and experts alike. Together, these interviews have been assembled with vintage footage, photographs, and music video/performance clips to tell us all how Depeche Mode came to find their niche in the music world.

