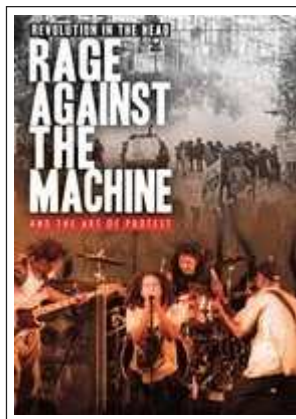




WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2009

Revolution in the Head: Rage Against the Machine and the Art of Protest DVD Review

Growing up, Rage Against the Machine may have had more of an impact on me than any band with the exception of Pink Floyd. Their music inspired me to take an interest in politics, and subsequently helped shape my beliefs, and while this may sound like a stretch, helped me decide my major in college. *Revolution in the Head: Rage Against the Machine and the Art of Protest*, is a pretty impressive DVD that is able to clearly bridge the topics of Rage Against the Machine as a band, and protest music, for a rather intriguing documentary.



One of the most notable characteristics of this DVD, is while it seems to lean towards the lower budget side of the fence, it's able to bring in some mildly notable people for interviews as well as include original music and videos that range from the obvious, Rage Against the Machine, to protest classics from Dylan, Guthrie, and Segar. There are no interviews from any of the band members, but when watching this documentary, their absence never puts into question the validity of the product.

The beginning of the film focuses on protest as an artistic form, most importantly music, and the background of Rage. As the film progresses the two become infused and the bridging of the two topics is coherent and smooth. There's really not much of a leap the director had to make when combining the two considering the overt political beliefs that ooze out of their music. The film gives some interesting insight into the history of political music, as well

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as the influences of the band. It charts the bands growth both musically and ideologically with regards to their lyrics that would evolve from more direct topics to more abstract and broader ideas. Each of their three albums are given a run down which predominantly focuses on the singles and overall themes. Even roaring its head in the DVD is the most common criticism of how can such an anti-corporate band be signed to one of the biggest multi-national corporations - Sony.

For a documentary that wasn't given an overarching budget and wasn't able to bring in the big guns for interviews, *Revolution in the Head* does a fantastic job of coming away with a clear and coherent film that never runs away from the topic at focus, which in my experience, has been a rather typical tendency of other smaller films. The interviewees are well informed and give their own unique perspective on a range of topics that gel extremely well. There is no smoking gun to be found in this documentary, and there isn't any kind of information that will have viewers rattling themselves in amazement, but however, the documentary does exactly what it set out to do, and that was to show Rage Against the Machine as a band who was at the forefront of protest music.

Grade: B

POSTED BY JEFF AT 6:28 PM

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