

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

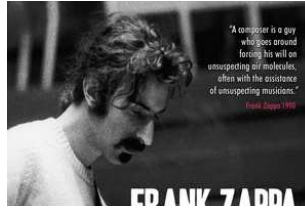
[Books](#) [Humor](#) [Movies](#) [Music](#) [People](#) [Television](#) [Other Categories >](#)

[Home >](#) [Arts & Entertainment >](#) [Music](#)

# DVD Review: Frank Zappa – the Freak Out List (Sexy Intellectual)

**associated content** Published May 10, 2010 by: **steve fritz**  
[View Profile](#) | [Follow](#) | [Add to Favorites](#)

Adjust font-size: [+](#) [-](#)



**More:** [Supreme Court](#) [Western Conference](#) [Lakers](#) [Jazz](#) [Philippines](#) [Find Your Love](#)

### Appraising the Modern Day Composer Who Rocked Music

When The Mothers of Invention recorded their first groundbreaking 2LP set, *Freak Out!*, leader Frank Zappa included a list of 139 different artists who influenced him and his band. 45 years later, with the late composer's immortality now undeniable, serious examination of Zappa's entire oeuvre has begun. When you have everyone from Prince, The Residence, Dethklok (whose lead guitar player, Mike Keneally, is a former member of the Mothers) to the [St. Louis](#) Symphony Orchestra extolling his virtues, it's about time.

For the record, *Sexy Intellectual* is one of the more interesting DVD labels out there. Last year they earned incredible props for releasing an incredibly detailed and comprehensive history on the German band Kraftwerk. While *The Freak-Out List* attempts to give Zappa the same respect, they only get halfway there.

At its core, *Sexy Intellectual* divides Zappa's influences into three distinct groups: modern classical, doo-wop/R&B/roots rock; and Jazz. They totally ignore a two other exceedingly important components.

First, Frank Zappa wasn't just a composer, but also an exceedingly well read man who exhorted his fans to drop out of school, go to a library, start reading books and—in his words—learn something. 20<sup>th</sup> Century giants such as Kafka were listed in his books as much as composer Edgar Varese. Zappa apparently loved the theater of the Absurd, and references to Beckett and Jarry also would rear their ugly heads along with advice to not eat the yellow snow or Billy the Mountain.

The other was film. Zappa not only loved and was influenced by a wide range of B-level monster movies, but often employed them. One of his earliest records, *Uncle Meat*, was the soundtrack to a movie he was trying to finance. He started exploring video recording as a low budge way around making films and openly encouraged animator Cal Schenkel to use his music for stop-motion videos.

Both these sections got the short shrift. As for the musical influences, it's a mixed bag.

**DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL CONNECTION:**  
 This content was based upon a free review copy the Contributor received.

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Next Page >>](#)

Written by [steve fritz](#) - Featured Arts & Entertainment Contributor  
 Writing professional with nearly 30 years experience in the entertainment field. [View full profile](#)

**Frank Zappa Vs. Tipper Gore**  
 In 1985, Tipper Gore, wife of the then Vice President, co-founded the Parents Music Resource Center as an organized reaction to "suggestive" and "offensive" lyrics in pop music.

Share | 0 | Helpful? | Most Commented

[Log in](#) | [Sign up/Publish](#) | [Community](#) | [Help](#)

[advanced >>](#)

- [The Top Ten Songs by Frank Zappa](#)
- [Frank Zappa Versus James Baker III](#)
- [Frank Zappa, Unsung American Music Legend](#)
- [Frank Zappa](#)
- [The Concept of Concept Albums in Music--Where They Started and Why They May Not Be...](#)
- [The Felt Forum on Halloween - Frank Zappa and Frankenstein](#)
- [Frank Zappa - Civilization Phase III: A Dense, Brooding Composition](#)

### Partner Links from

- [Anne Hathaway's New Boyfriend Accused of Sticky Fingers](#)
- [Supermodel Tyra Banks to Publish First Novel](#)
- [NCIS: Will Abby's Trip to Mexico Unearth Gibbs' Secrets?](#)
- [NCIS: Will Abby's Trip to Mexico Unearth Gibbs' Secrets?](#)

[Log in](#) | [Sign up/Publish](#)

### Phi-Beta-Zappa

In the sixties there were two, distinct sub-cultures. There was the Timothy Leary "Turn-on and Tune-in" hippies, and the blue collar freaks of the Frank Zappa revolution of common sense.

### Is Captain Beefheart Still Alive?

Captain Beefheart produced a few critically acclaimed but commercially unsuccessful albums a la Frank Zappa in the early '70s and then pretty much vanished.



### A Walkers Rockin Journal - Day 6

Walking & Blushing on a treadmill

### December 21: Today's Notable Birthdays

Happy birthday: Benjamin Disraeli, Phil Donahue, Chris Evert, Flo-Jo, Jane Fonda, Samuel L. Jackson, Ray Romano, Frank Zappa and others. Is December 21st your birthday? How will you celebrate? What notable individua...



### Steve Vai on His Audition For Fr...



### "Trees" Music Video



### How to Get Free Music for Your V...

### Advisor Left Her in 'Financial Ruin'

Takeaways | Did You Know

Frank Zappa was enshrined in the Rock'n Roll Hall of Fame just months after his death from cancer.

Among the musicians who cite Zappa as a major influence is Prince.

Zappa's work is now becoming part of the repertoire of modern classical orchestras.

Home | About Us | Help | Advertising Solutions | Partner Solutions | The Blog | RSS/Widgets | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | Site Map | Copyright Infringement | Disclaimer

© 2010 Associated Content, Inc.

### Type in Your Comments Below

Your name

headliner.fm  
get fans.  
LEARN MORE ▶  
headliner.fm | Ads by Google