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**DVD REVIEW: Frank Zappa: The Freak-Out List**

Wednesday, April 21st, 2010 at 11:18 am  
 posted by [Julia West](#)

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The secondary title of this DVD — *The Freak-Out List* (88 min., \$19.95)— pulls its name from the liner notes of the debut album from **Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention**. Aply titled **Freak Out!**, the record contained the aforementioned list in which Zappa extended a debt of gratitude to his influences. The list itself weaves its way through different genres — mainly classical, doo-wop and jazz — to form a tangible map beginning with Zappa's influencers and ending with his own catalogue of sounds.

The DVD, which was released yesterday from Sexy Intellectual, opens with tie-dyed shots of Zappa, the sound of his music and music historian **Alan Clayson** explaining how Zappa was far beyond his peers due his eclectic taste in music. It's a powerhouse opening and you expect the rest of the "rockumentary" to keep up to speed with the aesthetic. It doesn't take long, though, before a "classical and avant-garde scholar" (yes, that was really his title appearing on the bottom of the screen) is talking about a few dead white guys who changed music: composers **Richard Wagner**, **Arnold Schoenberg**, **Igor Stravinsky** and **Edgar Varèse**.

Similar comparisons continue when a classical piece is played, followed by one of Frankie's song, allowing viewers to draw their own comparisons. But psychedelic liquid drops are laid over images of landscapes felt like a desperate attempt to keep viewers interested/give them an acid flashback. Stoners looking to project this film on their dorm room wall will just end up being put to sleep. Rather, it's for the music geeks who get excited-in-the-pants over musical lineage.

**Tags:** [Frank Zappa](#), [Frank Zappa: The Freak-Out List](#), [Sexy Intellectual](#)



This entry was posted on Wednesday, April 21st, 2010 at 11:18 am and is filed under [Movie Review](#), [Movies](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0 feed](#). You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

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 'I am very sad to hear about the closing of Ortlieb's. just another case of taking the best away from us. The city of Philadelphia is indeed without a ' »

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**Quincy on**



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[...] DVD REVIEW: Frank Zappa: The Freak-Out List :: Critical Mass ... [...]

by Finland Freakout 1971 | Lots a Pink Things on April 25th, 2010 at 10:39 am

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- Jesse D: Yep Carolyn, I hit Shadfest on Saturday. Also: Quasi on Friday. Bowled a couple games at North Bowl on...
Bill-Sch: I knew of the bands before GTA4 LCHC, and I've not seen anything like this at shows I was at, but I...
Kellig: I have a question for all of you Reed lovers out there, I am looking for a t-shirt with just him any one have...
Kellig: Criminal Minds is without a doubt the best show out there right now, and thought was the only one obsessed...
Michael WEaver: As A White Power skin myself, the commies will only attack when they outnumber us 10-3 or in this case...

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