

## The DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter

### Clapton begins

A good overview of Eric Clapton's formative years, Eric Clapton The 1960's Review, has been issued by Sexy International (UPC#8235645-22791, \$20). Running 121 minutes, the 2010 program uses archival footage (some music clips are reasonably long) and interviews with musicians, producers and rock historians to trace the boyhood of Clapton and his rise as a British blues guitarist, charting his shift from group to group as he attempted to expand his sound and explore new territories. Although the documentary is 'unauthorized,' the producers have dredged up interview footage with Clapton, as well as some choice performance recordings. The program also dwells extensively on the blues mania that gripped British youth in the late Fifties and early Sixties. There is less specific analysis of Clapton's distinctive guitar riffs, but the story is nevertheless insightful and rewarding. Of particular note are the events surrounding the break up of the superstar band, Cream, and the subsequent formation of the superstar band, Blind Faith, where Clapton discovered, much to his frustration, that he had essentially stepped right into 'Cream II.'

The full screen picture varies from clip to clip but is in reasonably good shape. The sound is occasionally dimensional, but mostly centered. There is no captioning. Along with profiles of the primary interviewees, there are three terrific segments, running a total of 15 minutes, that wander too far afield to have been included in the documentary but are well worth sharing, about Sony Boy Williamson (the Yardbirds once played with him), *Eric Clapton's Powerhouse*, and how George Harrison stole the wah-wah peddle Clapton used on *Badge*.