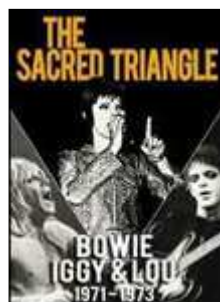


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The Sacred Triangle: Bowie Iggy & Lou 1971-1973 (2010)

Starring David Bowie, Iggy Pop and Lou Reed

Director: Alec

Lindsell

Interviews with Angela Bowie, Dave Thompson, Victor Bokris, Jayne County, John Halsey and many others

Studio: Sexy Intellectual B003Z8ZC7K [11/23/2010]

(Distr. By

ChromeDreams)

Video:

1.33:1

Audio:PCMStereo

Length:107'

Rating: *1/2**

As *The Sacred Triangle* opens, Ziggy Stardust (alter ego of David Bowie) is announcing both of their retirements. In a reverse, circular time narrative, Sacred Triangle recreates the confluence of three iconic performers, David Bowie, Lou Reed and Iggy Pop. With rare photographs, film excerpts and interviews, the story of a pivotal transition of the rock and roll music scene is told. At the center of the story is the legacy of Andy Warhol. The "iconographer" of American culture became involved with legendary avant-garde rockers, Velvet Underground, in the sixties. Despite an atypical sound that combined the folk rock of Lou Reed, and the progressive eclecticism of John Cale, the Warhol multi-media experience raised them to international fame. Two of their fans were British pop star, Davis Bowie and Michigan's ferocious rocker, Iggy Pop. Over the next few years, in particular 1971-1973, the three charismatic performers would influence each other in a profound, but creatively disruptive manner.

Bowie, in need of an identity, would assimilate elements of the Velvet Underground and The Stooges (Iggy's group), morphing into Ziggy Stardust. This shattered the image of the traditional British rock scene with its foray into androgyny. Reed, who was burned out and trying to navigate a solo career, would eventually release *Transformer*. This album solidified the image of New York as the provocative, subversive counterpoint to the commercial excesses of Los Angeles and London. Iggy Pop, a "literal" blood and guts performer, did not fare as well as the other two releasing the misunderstood, weirdly engineered (three-track) *Raw Power*. His world of nihilism and self-destruction would be



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too difficult to market. Over these crucial years, the three would continue to work together in different functions.

The narrative of *The Sacred Triangle* is incisive. However, the dull monotone of the voiceover slows the rhythm of the film. Most of the interviewees are pedestrian with the exception of Angie Bowie (Bowie's ex-wife) who injects enthusiasm and comic irony. Occasional concert footage, like "Ziggy Stardust" (Bowie) and "Heroin" (Reed), are reduced to thirty second glimpses. A lack of live Stooges footage is surprising, as they became a blueprint for the punk revolution. One of the bonus features offers an interesting anecdote about Nico (Velvet Underground) dragging a harmonium across Hyde Park at Brian Jones' tribute. Regardless of some technical faults, this is a story that needed to be told.

Chapters: Intro; Going Underground; Building Bowie; The Stooges; The Hype Of Pork; A Triangle Is Formed; New Look Bowie; Transforming An Artist; Ziggy Has Landed; Powering Forward; The Final Throws.

-- Robbie Gerson

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