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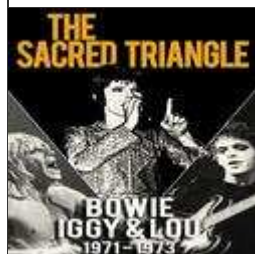
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THE SACRED TRIANGLE
BOWIE, IGGY AND LOU 1971-1973
(Sexy Intellectual)
BY DAVID MANSDORF

A documentary about David Bowie, Lou Reed and Iggy Pop made without the input or authorization of the three principles? Sounds like another DVD snoozefest cribbed together from whatever readily available footage and talking head interviews the directors could get their hands on. The Sacred Triangle is all these things, but it avoids all the negative connotations of such limitations because the directors were able to get some extremely fascinating talking heads (Angie Bowie, Jayne County, Lee Black Childers among others) to give their unique and colorful perspective on events, which they at least witnessed first-hand. The movie follows the rise of David Bowie, and details how he synthesized his influences (The Velvet Underground, Andy Warhol, British music hall, The Stooges, Marc Bolan...etc.) to find megastardom under the guise of Ziggy Stardust. Once his own career peaked Bowie did his best to shine a spotlight back on two of his greatest musical loves - Lou Reed and Iggy Pop - with mixed success. Lou Reed at least had a hit with his Bowie-produced Transformer album, but Iggy struck out with the Bowie-produced Raw Power, although the album would find a second life years later as a major influence among the first generation of punk rock bands. It could have been a better movie if Bowie, Iggy and Lou were involved, but if you're a fan of their work, you'll find this fascinating regardless.

DAVID MANSDORF