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Frank Zappa - From Straight To Bizarre

Sexy Intellectual Production / MVD Entertainment

Director:

Year: 2011 **Classification:** NR **Runtime:** 161 minutes **Ratio:** 1.33:1 **Anamorphic:** No **Language:** English (DDST)

Subtitles: **Number of chapters:** **Number of Discs:** 1 (DVD-9) **Bar Code (UPC):** 823564527291



This DVD is available at: [Amazon.ca](#)

According to Sébastien Cassou April 26, 2012

In the world of rock and pop music, the bizarre and iconoclastic abound. David Bowie, Marilyn Manson, Devo, The Plasmatics and all others have noted over the years. But beyond the disguises to improve their image and attitudes designed to please the media, very few are fundamentally interested in strange things musical. Frank Zappa, hands-on music and all the king by the iconoclasts had against him, a passion for oddities. And not only hers! As he proved by founding two record labels in the late 60s, Bizarre and Straight, dedicated to recording artists marginal social phenomena or unclassifiable. This is the story of these two different labels and artists who found their site that seeks to narrate the documentary-river (nearly three hours) "From Straight To Bizarre: Zappa, Beefheart, Alice Cooper and LA's Lunatic Fringe".

It all started with the desire of guitarist and composer to retain control over its own records. So he created with his manager Herb Cohen Bizarre company that was to take charge of production and marketing of his records to come. Then the two partners decided to endisquer also some interesting artists who struggled to find their place among the major record companies. Over the few years that lasted the company, that is to say until Zappa loses interest because of time and energy to invest, Bizarre (then a second label created for administrative reasons and ironically named Straight) engraved a few dozen albums by strange that could not do elsewhere.

Whether the anti establishment comedian [Lenny Bruce](#), the group of groupies (those girls who follow rock stars everywhere in the hope of sleeping with their idols!) Girls Together Outrageously - known by the acronym GTO - the singer and schizophrenic street artist [Wild Man Fisher](#), Zappa and Cohen dénichérent and recorded all sorts of phenomena revolving around the Los Angeles of the late sixties.

But among all these weird, some real artists emerged as figureheads of the movement and made their mark freak at Bizarre and Straight before moving on to bigger things elsewhere. One thinks of course Alice Cooper, then the group name (the singer Vincent Furnier were to adopt in 1974, about power transfer other musicians while keeping the rights!) Who recorded their three [first albums](#) to alias Captain Beefheart Don Van Vliet who carved the mysterious and important [Trout Mask Replica](#) and its sequel, [Lick my Decals Off Baby](#), but also as a folk artist Tim Buckley who carved his remarkable [Starsailor](#).

Although at least be a fan of Zappa finished, three hours of blah blah on relatively obscure artists may seem long, the film is extremely well built and will fascinate even the most reluctant. Maybe because in addition to musical excerpts and interviews interesting there is also a portrait of a social movement of the time, the Freaks, who were hippies in response to well-established in San Francisco. So, a film highly recommended for fans of '60s rock music.

Visually it was a correct DVD. Good colors, clear and full, well nuanced contrasts and sharp details in regard to contemporary interviews. Only a few excerpts of shows or TV shows archives are a little less bright. For audio, also a very good quality. Interviews are round and full, with just a balance of different frequencies. The music is both mixed and compares the dialogues without problems. Even the oldest excerpts, in concert or on TV, are of good quality. In addition there are two short sequences not included in the film. Also added brief biographies of the various contributors.

Ratings

Film	8
Presentation	7
Supplements	7
Video	7
Audio	7