

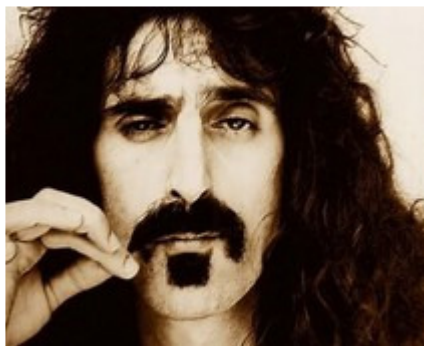
FROM STRAIGHT TO BIZARRE | February 20, 2012

Music Movie Mondays: From Straight to Bizarre...



David Voigt

Toronto Music Examiner



<http://www.examiner.com/music-in-toronto/from-straight-to-bizarre-photo>

Not just a prolific musician, but also label head and producer

Credits: philzone.org



<http://www.examiner.com/music-in-toronto/from-straight-to-bizarre-video>

Video: From Straight to Bizarre
<http://www.examiner.com/music-in-toronto/from-straight-to-bizarre-video>

Rating for From Straight to Bizarre:

It is something that is only talked about in rumor and discussed in hushed whispers around the city of Toronto as it has been awhile since the music fans have anything recommended to them to curl up on the couch with a learn a little about music's past. After a long hiatus, music fans can rejoice as it is the return of 'Music Movie Mondays' here at examiner.com. Out tomorrow on DVD from our friends at MVD and Chrome Dreams in the UK is a look at strange and unique music scene that bore the legendary record label and house that Frank Zappa built. Get ready for "From Straight to Bizarre: Zappa, Beefheart, Alice Cooper and LA's Lunatic Fringe".

Desperate to remove himself from his original deal with Verve Records, in 1968 Frank Zappa set up the Bizarre and Straight labels in league with manager Herb Cohen, and so began a string of releases which remain extraordinary in the extreme. This film revisits and reviews the astonishing music that came out on Bizarre and Straight, and reveals the background, operations and, crucially, the lives of the musicians, performers and management who made these labels the legendary reality they became. Includes rare footage, archive interviews and of course the music that made it all worthwhile.

Like so many other unauthorized musical documentaries we get a fairly unfiltered view of the time period as many of the people interviewed for the documentary are people who were there. Fans of the time period will enjoy an inside look at the musical groups that Frank Zappa had a direct influence on and their place in the popular musical lexicon like Captain

Related topics:

[From Straight to Bizarre](#), [Frank Zappa](#), [Captain Beefheart](#), [Alice Cooper](#), [Wild Man Fischer](#), [LA's Lunatic Fringe](#)



David Voigt,
Toronto Music
Examiner

David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in entertainment industry. His 12 years of experience have provided him with a unique view on what is worth spending your hard earned entertainment dollars on. Combine that with his unquestioned love of music, David...

Beefheart, Wild Man Fischer, GTO's to the likes of The Persuasions and Tim Buckley as well as unedited comedy records from controversial comic Lenny Bruce. This epic 2 hour and 40 minute takes us in-depth into each act that he signed as well each of their albums, looking at on an almost track by track basis. Unquestionably a look into the deep grooves of the Frank Zappa legacy and the musical acts that he helped to bring to the forefront and while historically interesting, your knowledge of Frank Zappa and the artists at the time has to be pretty deep in order for the viewer to be able to getting anything out of this.

As an advance class on the time period "From Straight To Bizarre" is a fantastic look back at the influence that an artist like Frank Zappa had on popular music, not only from the standpoint of his own music, but from the different types of music that he tried to share with the world on this own record labels. It won't work for those with no knowledge of the time period, but for those who know a little bit, this film is a great next step towards expanding your knowledge.

4 out of 5 stars.

"From Straight to Bizarre" should be available at video & record stores across Toronto tomorrow; you can click [here](#) (http://www.blogto.com/toronto/the_best_video_stores_in_toronto/) or [here](#) (http://www.blogto.com/toronto/the_best_used_cd_stores_in_toronto/) for a list of some of the finer stores near you. Ultimately though, if you are interested in picking up "From Straight to Bizarre" you should try an online retailer like [seeofsound.com](http://www.seeofsound.com/p.php?s=SIDVD568) (<http://www.seeofsound.com/p.php?s=SIDVD568>) to pick up your copy.

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