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\$100 and a T-Shirt DVD: A Documentary About Zines In The Northwest US

A long-overdue look at fanzine culture



It's funny how things come around. I myself once launched a (now long-dead) fanzine with the equivalent of about US \$100 (and no T-Shirt); years later that, in the way these things work, led me to sit down to review this new documentary film about people doing much the same thing, albeit in the Northwest USA rather than the Northwest of England.

This rather wonderful film examines the whole of 'zine culture via a series of interviews with people who have written them on every topic, from music to sci-fi to gay culture and just about every point in between. At one point, between the late '70's punk explosion and the late '90's, fanzines were really the glue that held scenes together, defining nascent genres as they bubbled up from the primordial soup and filling in the information gaps mainstream publishing didn't acknowledge.

In these days of internet blogging and mass communications, printed zines are becoming much rarer, but there are still enough geeky wannabe writers out there putting their passions onto paper. The directors of "\$100 And A T-Shirt" have tracked down an unbelievable number of them and put their comments into an informative, quirky film, and roped in terminal zine inhabitants J Church to provide a splendid and truly fitting soundtrack. The range of zines discussed is truly mindboggling (sadly my own effort doesn't feature!), and there's plenty of how-to information in case you feel inspired. You probably won't want to watch it twice; but you should definitely see it once.

By: EDDIE THOMAS

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- Cruising
- iCrusher Complete
- Air Guitar Nation
- Brick Lane
- The Adventures Of Young Indiana Jones: Volume 1
- Tad - Busted Circuits And Ringing Ears
- Liberty in Restraint
- I Do
- My Blueberry Nights
- Suburban shootout - Series 2
- Flipper - Live!
- Pelican - After The Ceiling Cracked
- Cloverfield
- In Living The True Gods: Stones Throw 102
- Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

GAMES

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- Unreal Tournament 3
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- Ogres and Dronkeys
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