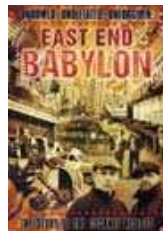


REVIEWS SHORT REVIEWS LIVE REVIEWS ZINES



12.1.13
EAST END BABYLON: THE STORY OF THE COCKNEY REJECTS
 (CADIZ MUSIC UK/ MVD)-

Wow, this one was a real eye opener. Over the years I had casually listened to the music of England's Cockney Rejects but didn't know the back story. Only that they were really popular with the Oi! crowd. I always had liked what I had heard but never went much further (I was more of a Sham 69 fan, who probably have a similar story). The story takes us back to the town of West Ham where the band was formed. A town that was basically destroyed by bombs in WW 2. From there it spoke of the hundreds of dockworkers punching the clock every day and a very crowded, busy way of life ridden with plenty of crime. By the late 70's most of the docks were gone and there was no work. As it states on this doc, the only way out was either football (soccer), boxing (which they did) or rock and roll. In 1978, teenage brothers Jeff (aka Jeff Turner aka Stinky) and Micky Geggus formed the band and shortly thereafter were helped along by Jimmy Pursey (singer for Sham 69) and the rest is history. The band grew a rabid fan base and because just as well-known for its soccer hooliganism (West Haim's infamous ICF crew). Along the way they battle rival football fans, nazi skinheads (the Rejects won) and even appeared on Top of the Pops twice. Eventually the violence that marred their gigs (they talk about the infamous "Battle of Birmingham" at length) effectively put an end to the band and left the band members broke. Until one day.....redemption came. One of their songs appeared on a Levi's commercial. Then Joe Strummer spoke highly of them, then Morrissey and the band began slipping back into the public consciousness again and the band member, who had never played outside of the UK in the early days, began finding that they had rabid fans all over the world. Instead of opposition they found out their music was uniting people. A great end to a great story. This doc is excellent and well worth watching (hilarious side note: Jeff Geggus utters the word fuck more times in this doc than I have probably used in my entire life (and when it comes to language, I'm no altar boy). . www.mvdb2b.com



12.1.13
Cosmic Psychos- Blokes You Can Trust

(MVD/ Umbrella Entertainment)-While I was into many of the hard-driving Aussie bands of the 80's and early 90's (Celbiate Rifles, Hard Ons, Lime Spiders, etc.) the Cosmic Psychos passed me by back then. Oh sure, I'd heard some of their tunes, but don't think I owned any of their records and don't think I ever saw them live. Shame on me on both accounts but I have rectified this as Goner Records has reissued the bands first two LP's and first ep and then there is this, a documentary on this hard rocking/drinking band. It starts from their humble beginnings in Melbourne, Australia (though bassist/singer/leader Ross Knight lived on a farm outside of town, one that plays a big part in this documentary) as Ross, guitarist Peter Jones and drummer Bill Walsh start destroying eardrums from the very beginning. Jones leaves after a few records and they change guitarists (they do this a few times as one of the later ones dies of a drug overdose). Along the way they tour the world, become friends with folks in Mudhoney, The Melvins, L-7 and many others, all who share air time in here discussing their love for the band with some outrageous stories (the fact that the band's drinking impressed even Mudhoney's Matt Lukin, who could REALLY drink, says something). In the end, after many years, drummer Walsh leaves (something about trust) and they find a new drummer (and a new guitarist who is apparently a lawyer but appears on screen here as a spaced-out lush). In addition to his many talents (he dated an S & M woman for a while) we learn that Knight is also a champion bodybuilder (don't mess with this dude) and in the end he gets to keep the farm (a legal battle with his ex-wife which starts out the documentary). This is one rock doc that is very entertaining and highly recommended. www.mvvisual.com www.umbrellaent.com.au



8.31.13
History of The Eagles

For me and my punk rock pals in the 80's and 90's , it was real easy to hate The Eagles. A band that stood for all the bloated excesses of the 70's that punk rock was trying to destroy. Fast forward to the late 90's when I was interviewing Joe Pernice of the Scud Mountain Boys. He mentioned The Eagles and I snickered. He then shot back with, "What, you don't like The Eagles?" I was stopped dead in my tracks. Did I actually like The Eagles, a band I said I hated for years? Well, time and age does change things and bands I vowed to never like when I was younger I was not afraid to listen to anymore. Anyway, I don't need to talk about