



Ronnie Hawkins
Still Alive And Kickin' Casablanca CMTDV9043 * * * *

The Hawk cheats the grim reaper

The larger than life persona and the indomitable spirit of Ronnie 'The Hawk' Hawkins' Arkansas' home grown King Of Rockabilly are written all over Anne Pick's award winning deature length documentary. Filmed over the space of some 18 months and produced in association with Canada's CTV and narrated in his best Blues Brothers voice by Dan Aykroyd Still Alive And Kickin' tracks the emotional roller coaster became the Hawk and his family's life following his diagnosis with pancreatic cancer in 2002. With the Hawk only given a matter of months to live the filmmakers originally thought they were capturing the last chapter in a hugely colourful life story and this explains the film's mix of equal parts biography and tribute in its coverage of the Hawk's career via the combination of archive footage and interviews with, among others, Kris Kristofferson, Bill Clinton, Robbie Robertson, the Hawk himself and his long suffering wife Wanda. Mercifully and possibly due to a combination of the Hawk's untamed lust for life, his faith in 'the Big Rocker' and the involvement of a mysterious healer applying the principles of quantum physics, the Hawk's tumour and with it all traces of cancer miraculously disappear making this not only an uplifting human interest story but a memorably up close and personal portrait of one of the best loved adopted sons of the Maple Leaf.

- Grahame Bent