

Heavy Metal Parking Lot Ultimate Underground DVD

(HEAVYMETALPARKINGLOT.COM, +/- 4 HOURS)

Celebrating 20 years of cult notoriety



Reality TV, *Beavis and Butt-head*, YouHaveBad TasteInMusic.com, *The Daily Show*—they all owe a debt to *Heavy*

Metal Parking Lot. The underground short film, made by two decidedly nonmetal Maryland filmmakers prior to a 1986 Judas Priest show, is both high comedy and a fascinating sociological snapshot. In examining the fervor of heavy-metal fans and the anticipatory electricity of preshow parking lot parties, John Heyn and Jeff Krulik give valuable insight into the minds of...oh, who are we kidding? They filmed a bunch of drunken, shirtless, hooting metalheads in what can only be described as a state of precoital emotional turgidity—it can only be one of the funniest things ever, and it is. The fans' dizzy rapture at the idea of seeing metal gods Judas Priest from Section 102, plus a likely substantial quality of domestic beer, is the recipe for quality entertainment. There might be some academic ramifications to the film, but that just kinda takes the fun out of it.

Notable special features: This 20th-anniversary edition features directors' commentary, outtakes, visits with *HMPL* alumni (they found Zebraman!), *HMPL* tributes and sequels, nonrelated short films and Dub-O-Vision, a way to watch *HMPL* in its original format: a tenth-generation VHS copy.

Townes Van Zandt Be Here to Love Me: A Film by Margaret Howard

(PALM PICTURES, 100 MINUTES)

Freaky? Deaky



Is bringing a dead legend to life on film more than just cutting together archival footage, home movies and interviews with still-breathing friends, family and peers? Nah. Anyone, provided they didn't live a solitary existence, is in some way immortal. If you say someone's name enough times, show some pictures or videos, tell some stories—you can pretend they're with you. Legendary singer-songwriter Townes

Van Zandt has the benefit of remembrances from people like Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle and Joe Ely in his movie. But it's the songs, amazing portraits of the human condition, that make Van Zandt everlasting. But is that why, in this masterfully crafted, critically acclaimed documentary, he almost seems to be in the room with you? Who knows? Who cares?



Townes Van Zandt

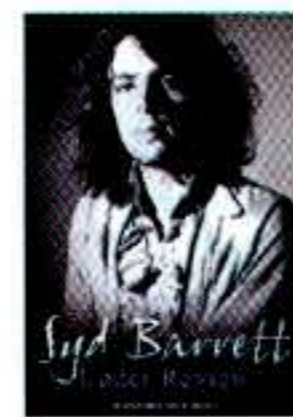
There's a dead legend in the room when you watch this movie. And that's all you need to know.

Notable special features: Director commentary, trailer, deleted scenes.

Syd Barrett Under Review: An Independent Critical Analysis

(MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS, 60 MINUTES)

A bit more than just fancy talk for "unauthorized." Just a bit



Hey, Syd Barrett and Pink Floyd fans: Ever been screwed by an "unauthorized" DVD of your favorite band?

You take it home and undress it. You slide it in. Then it all goes flat, and fast. There's music, but it's not by the band on the cover. There are interviews, but with people at least seven degrees separated from said band. A slew of second-rate photos whiz past so it looks like film footage. Wham, bam—thank you, dumbass. *Under Review* has at least the music (Barrett's own and that of Pink Floyd) and the words of erudite hacks from U.K. rags going for it—but it's otherwise just another rip-off. The information about Barrett and Pink Floyd is easily found online thanks to fans and some of these same writers. The

music is stuff you already have. The footage and photos aren't all that special, even though this "limited edition" DVD (justified, evidently, by the cardboard slipcover) boasts some unseen stuff (doesn't say anything about what or how good it is). Even Barrett, mad as a hatter, wouldn't buy this.

Notable special features: That cardboard slipcover. Yow!

Wholphin

(MCSWEENEY'S, +/- 2 1/2 HOURS)

Smarter than the average wholphin



Connoisseurs of the cool and weird rejoice—*Wholphin* is here! The first issue of McSweeney's DVD magazine is a wet dream for couch potatoes who check "some college" on surveys. The content ranges from short films by hip indie directors (Miranda July and Miguel Arteta's *Are You the Favorite Person of Anybody?*) and a 13-minute documentary on Al Gore by Spike Jonze (it actually makes the former veep look totally awesome) to a short, trippy animation (the 1970s-era Iranian cartoon *Malek Khroshid*, Carson Mell's crazy *The Writer*) and Turkey's version of *The Jeffersons* with alternate subtitles by comedy writer Rodney Rothman (*Undeclared*, *Early Bird*). There's also twisted author Brian Evenson (*Altmann's Tongue*) and a short film in which Selma Blair finds out her vagina is...special. There's even a forward version of a weird Swedish guy singing "Stairway to Heaven" backwards. Follow? No? That's not the point. *Wholphin* is more about content you can't easily understand at first blush, which is to say you have to think about what you see. Now add "stimulating" to "cool" and "weird." It's like "some college" all over again.

Notable special features: The Patton Oswalt menu, where he just mugs in front of the camera for five minutes, is awesomely disturbing.



Spike Jonze



Heavy Metal Thunder

CHATTING WITH DAVID HELVEY OF *HEAVY METAL PARKING LOT*



"YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME OUT to be a bad guy are ya?" asks David Helvey. He was a cocky, inebriated, 20-year-old Judas Priest fan in the legendary 1986 short *Heavy Metal Parking Lot*, but at 39 he's just a good-natured guy with rock 'n' roll dreams.

Helvey is one of three *Heavy Metal Parking Lot* alums featured in the film's 20th-anniversary DVD, Helvey agreed to chat about the movie and how it has affected his life.

What did you think after seeing yourself in the film?

You know what? It's funny. I haven't changed at all. I still like Priest; I saw them last year. I still listen to the same bands, pretty much. I stuck with the old-school music. Hendrix, Floyd, Skynyrd. It seems to fit my spirit.

What happened to Dawn, the girl you're with in the film?

Her parents went to school with my parents, and she's my distant cousin. [Dawn's] the one that called me up and said, "Hey, Dave, I want you to come to this concert."

She's a grown woman with children and she's doin' fine. We talked through e-mail but that's it.

How has the film impacted your life?

It hasn't changed my life much. I did go to one screening of the movie in D.C., and after they showed it they introduced me and people asked me some questions. I didn't realize it was as big as it was. And [the filmmakers] showed me a picture of Dave Grohl—I appreciate that guy so much for his music—looking at a picture of me on a computer. And I guess he listened to some of my songs.

You wrote a theme song for the film. Beyond that, what is your involvement with the film now?

They'll be doing something in April, and they want my band, Free Peace, to play. We're without a bassist right now, but I think we can pull it off.

RANDY HARWARD