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Video Reviews

"Last Shop Standing" DVD Celebrates Independent Record Stores

By Michael Fremer • Posted: Apr 26, 2013

The documentary "Last Shop Standing", subtitled "The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop" consists of a series of interviews with UK record store owners and fans, some of them famous like guitarist Johnny Marr (The Smiths), Paul Weller and Billy Bragg.

The film, based on the 2009 book of the same name by Graham Jones, tells its tale through the eyes and mouths of more than twenty record store owners—an older and somewhat forlorn bunch, but also a bunch of engaging characters—who have been through the toughest times imaginable as technology and tastes shifted rapidly in the 20th century's waning years.

But there's more to the downfall of the Indie record store that the interviewees document: the corruption of the sales reporting system by unscrupulous salesmen that put the final nail in the coffin of the "old guard" record stores. Hearing what actually happened makes even more amazing that *any* store survived.

Ironically, the system's corruption may remind you of the corruption created by the "No Child Left Behind" educational reform in America, with its emphasis on uniform test results.

Here, the record charts substitute for uniform test results. Desperate educators anxious to get good test scores were willing in some cases (like in Atlanta, GA) to erase and "fix" answers on tests. Record salesmen, anxious to turn in good sales figures and to help songs climb the charts were willing to engage in all sorts of shenanigans that will leave you mouth agape.

Also leaving your mouth agape are the statistics: in the 1980s the UK had 2200 indie record stores. By 2009 only 269 were left.

But all hope is not lost as you know and the film delves into what's saving the remaining stores and how more might be coming on board as the vinyl resurgence gains strength. In fact of late, more new stores have opened than old ones have closed. The two hour film (50 minutes plus 74 minutes of extras) was in part sponsored by Rega and includes a short clip of Rega founder Roy Gandy as well as by the British audio magazine Hi-fi News.

While the film is short on analysis or even a thread of a story line, the footage in the shops and the comments made by the participants—particularly the older ones—produce a rich historical tapestry and rich visuals.

Obviously this is not for everyone, but it certainly is for everyone reading this on analogplanet.com. Don't expect to come away wildly optimistic though. The movie makes clear that the stores that have survived were the ones that adapted to the biggest change of all—bigger than CDs—the Internet. Stores with an Internet presence held on. Oh, and it didn't hurt to own the building too!



Last Shop Standing Various Interviewees and Recording Artists

Convexe Entertainment
CVX903106 DVD

Produced by: Pip Piper (Director)

Engineered by: N/A

Mixed by: N/A

Mastered by: N/A

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Comments



Relying on advanced IT

Submitted by CLSC on Tue, 2013-05-07 12:22.

Relying on advanced IT systems and years of experience in electronic commerce and [Products Trade](#), [China Loong Supply Chain Inc.](#), has set up an omni-directional supply chain management and service platform which combines, logistics, customs clearance, market analysis and a wide array of financial services and [Supply Chain Services](#).

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HD ?

Submitted by vinyl listener on Fri, 2013-05-03 08:55.

I remember seeing the trailer in HD but have yet to see a full HD release.

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Unique title of documentary

Submitted by radolf lincon on Mon, 2013-04-29 16:02.

It's unique title "Last Shop Standing".

Thanks for sharing this.

[Kamagra](#)

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Amazon

Submitted by gubarenko on Sat, 2013-04-27 12:05.

It's Available at Amazon.com (low stock or you need to buy it at amazon marketplace)

<http://amzn.to/17o6YBD>

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Where can the DVD be purchased?

Submitted by dleonard on Sat, 2013-04-27 02:38.

Michael - The movie trailer and website do not provide a USA distributor for the DVD (perhaps I overlooked it). Who do we contact to buy?

Also, sad to report that Intoxica Records in London recently closed shop. The store (and Debbie, one of the sales staff) are both featured in the movie trailer.

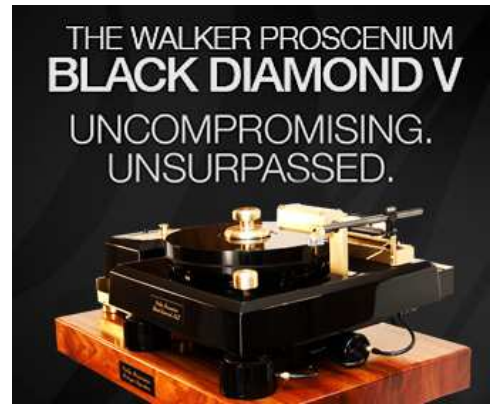
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It has US distribution now...supposedly

Submitted by lonndoggie on Sat, 2013-04-27 04:31.

It was for sale during Record Shop Day all over the US, in limited quantities. It's for sale on [Amazon US](#), but is listed as currently out



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