



REVIEWS

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ZINES



3.9.13

Last Shop Standing: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop

This was an interesting watch, for sure. The film (which was inspired by a book of the same name by Graham Jones) chronicles the life of several U.K. record shops, many that started decades ago. It follows them through their prosperous years, then into the depths of despair as the mp3 era came in (and many folks stopped buying music....it states that during those years that 2000 record shops closed in the U.K.) and onto the rebirth the past few years where vinyl has made a strong comeback and the stores that were able to weather the storm and tough it out have survived. Along the way they speak to musicians such as Johnny Marr, Billy Bragg, Richard Hawley, Norman Cook, Paul Weller and others as they tell the camera what it was that brought them into record shops in the first place and what keeps them coming back. This is one documentary that I really enjoyed. www.mvdb2b.com. www.mvdb2b.com



3.9.13

The Story of Mudhoney- I'm Now

Man, take me back to 1988-'89 and it seemed like Mudhoney was all I was talking about. I had bought the "Touch Me I'm Sick" 7" on Sub Pop (unfortunately not the real rare one on one brown vinyl) then saw an early gig at the Court Tavern in New Brunswick, NJ (...and many times thereafter....at said show in New Brunswick, Mark Arm was lifted up by the fans and got his foot stuck in the push-through ceiling while bassist Matt Lukin hocked a gross loogie on the ceiling and stared/smiled at it while it slowly dripped down). This 100 minute doc tells the story from the beginning to ...well, not the end because the band is still going and making excellent music (albeit without Lukin, Australian Guy Maddison took over bass duties about a decade ago). Along the way we hear from all of the band members as well as from other folks who were there along the way: Tad Doyle, Thurston Moore & Kim Gordon, Soundgarden's Kim Thayill, Offs! Keith Morris, plus the Sub Pop heads Jonathan Poneman and Bruce Pavitt (who live the label several years ago) and many others. From Mark Arm and Steve Turner's early band, Mr. Epp and the Calculations on to punk/metal heroes Green River, which then splintered into Mudhoney (for Arm and Steve Turner) and Mother Love Bone then Pearl Jam for (Jeff Ament and Stone Gossard) and all the bumps along the way (Arms discusses his past drug problems, getting dropped (leaving, actually) Reprise, Lukin bailing) and their return to Sub Pop. Unlike some of the other noise mongers from the late 80's, the guys in Mudhoney seemed (and were) approachable and without pretension. They gave off the image of four friends who loved to play music and have fun while doing it, which is exactly what they were. www.mvdb2b.com www.mudhoneymovie.com



3.2.13

Paul Williams- Still Alive

Paul Williams seemed to be everywhere in the 70's. I think I first saw him on an episode of The Brady Bunch but he was always on awards shows, in movies, on late night tv (he apparently appeared on Johnny Carson 50 times) and well.....everywhere. You know his songs as they were hits sung by folks like The Carpenters, Barbara Streisand, Three Dog Night, The Muppets and many more. As small as he was you sure couldn't miss the guy as he was one of the oddest looking people in show biz, very short (5' 2") with long, shaggy blond hair and his ever-present big glasses. As the title of this dvd implies, this lets you know that Paul

Williams is indeed still alive and very active, and still playing many shows every year (to, of course, much smaller crowds). The director of this documentary Stephen Kessler, seems like he's in the way a lot of the time (lots of awkward scenes) and Williams will tell Kessler if he doesn't want to answer something or if he's in the way (Williams' wife is in tow with them and in a lot of the scenes, as well). Williams speaks very honestly about the trappings of fame and his own problems with addiction (he has been clean and sober for decades and occasionally speaks at A.A./ N.A. conventions), but he seems genuinely happy and content now. He still plays shows across the world albeit in much smaller venues than he used to and is the current president of ASCAP. What's probably worth it for him is the look on many of the fans faces when he meets them, it shows just how much his music meant to them. www.virgfilms.com



1.8.13

Archers of Loaf-What Did You Expect? Live at the Cat's Cradle

This DVD highlights the legendary indie rock band's great music, delivered about 10 minutes