

Brick and Mortar and Love, Last Shop Standing



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/BrickandMortarandLove.jpg>) **Official Synopsis:**

Brick and Mortar and Love -

Brick and Mortar and Love follows the story of John Timmons, owner of the legendary record store Ear X-tacy, as he struggles to find a way to keep his store open and his dream alive after 25 years in the rocky music retail industry. In-depth interviews include Ear X-tacy staff, leaders in the record store industry and scores of independent record store owners from all over the US. These interviews look into the state of the independent record store, what services they provide and what is at stake if they disappear.

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

More than a piece of nostalgia, Last Shop Standing takes a tantalizing look into the future: the stores that are opening, who is succeeding and the individual and unique passion that drives those who remain, and intend to be here long after the supermarkets have given up and the last chain store has closed. This “deluxe” DVD version for North America will be released on Record Store Day, April 20.

Our Take:

I'm putting **Brick and Mortar and Love** together with **Last Shop Standing: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop** because they are pretty much the same documentary, the first taking place in the US, the second in the UK. I'll start with the US one first.

Brick and Mortar and Love shows how the music industry helped build then destroy locally owned shops. CDs were the first bullet fired, but MP3 was the final deathblow. This documentary focuses on a shop

in the South that has actually had some really cool bands play there like the Foo Fighters and Queens of the Stone Age. Unfortunately the owner never kept up with changing demands and the documentary shows everything it went through to stay alive. From begging for donations to closing its historic location for a smaller venue, it struggled to survive with changing technology. I liked the criticism the owner received from people who didn't believe he deserved hand outs. It gave the film an authentic feel.

Last Shop Standing focuses on a bunch of different indie shops throughout the UK. This documentary shows a wider range of shops, ones that closed after decades, to ones seeing a recent boom because of hipster kids (although they didn't use the term hipster in the documentary). I liked this one a bit more because it went back much further and the shop owners explained how record companies used to pay them to put out certain albums in order to increase sales and how rankings of albums sales and song sales were highly influenced by these independent shops. This one talked about one shop being one of the first in England to really sell Elvis Presley albums and how a lot of them helped the punk and New Wave genres boom in England.

Special Features:

- None

Conclusion:

Of the two, I enjoyed **Last Shop Standing** more than **Brick and Mortar and Love**, but both are worth catching if you are into music. Kids nowadays will never know what it was like checking out new music and having to wait to get a song or LP. Both documentaries talk about their hatred for CDs and the digital age, but alas that is the norm nowadays. I remember hearing a song on the radio and trying to record it on cassette, now I can just jump on YouTube and listen to it a million times or download the MP3 instantly on numerous sites. The films made me kinda sad of a simpler, better time when it wasn't about hearing one song, it was about the entire album.

RECOMMENDED!

Overall Picture:

Movies (Average): **B**

Extra Features: **None**

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