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## Record Store Day Special – DVD Review Feature: Last Shop Standing

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This coming Saturday (April 20th) is Record Store Day. This annual event sees

[independent record stores](#) around the world being celebrated as music fans stand in line outside to get the chance to support their local shop while picking up some exclusive releases at the same time. A number of record labels support this initiative around the world, releasing exclusive, often vinyl-only records to the independent stores on this day.

As well as the exclusive music that is being pushed out to the independent stores, this year also sees the North American release of the deluxe edition of the movie, 'Last Shop Standing.' This highly acclaimed documentary shows the rise and fall and rise again of the [independent record](#) store. While set in Britain, the story is a familiar one right across the United States, Canada, Europe, and beyond.

With in-shop interviews with independent [record shop](#) owners, as well as artists, including Johnny Marr (once of The Smiths), Clint Boon, and Paul Weller, and radio personalities, this DVD is definitely worth checking out. Wonderfully shot, insightful, and yet with a genuine warmth and familiarity, this documentary shows how an almost naive pop music scene grew from the 1960s into a real boom for independent retailers with the punk explosion of the late '70s. With a D.I.Y. aesthetic spreading from the music to the high-street, this was seen as a real hey-day for independent stores. Vinyl sales were booming and record industry reps were battling for sales among the many independent shops.

However, there then came the slow and painful demise of the independent record store. This superb film shows how compact discs, supermarket [music retailing](#), and more recently illegal downloading more than decimated the independent record stores. As many were forced to close, 'Last Shop Standing' shows how we began to lose an important social hub; somewhere to discover new music that we would never find in a chain-store, and a place to meet like-minded music lovers.

While this film stresses the importance of supporting your local independent store, it is not all doom and gloom, as the DVD shows that there is a groundswell of support for independent music shops. It seems that people are beginning to realize the resource that they so-nearly lost, and record stores have also learnt to adapt to the modern world. No longer selling bulk copies of certain releases, the independents are thriving from smaller sales of a more diverse catalogue. Customer service is also key, as many young people are discovering the joys of the independent record store.

This DVD is heart-warming, and engaging as it shows how the music industry ended up harming itself with the perceived 'evolution' of the digital age. However, it seems that the independent record store is the real key to the music industry staying afloat, and of new musicians being inspired to create great music in the future. Among the reminiscence, 'Last Shop Standing' brings some interesting facts to bear, including that vinyl sales are on the rise, and that young women are becoming the biggest supporters of independent record stores.

So, please, show some love for your local independent record store this Record Store Day, go and grab the latest releases (on vinyl!), and also buy a copy of this fine DVD. When it comes to record stores, it's not where you're from, but it's definitely where you're at!

Check out the 'Last Stop Standing' trailer, below:

