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LINE OUT

THE STRANGER'S MUSIC BLOG

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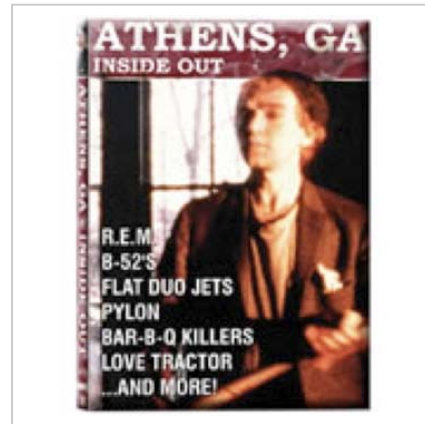
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

HISTORY

Ivy & Georgia Clay

 posted by [TRENT MOORMAN](#) on SEPTEMBER 6 at 13:21 PM

Athens, GA Inside / Out is a 1986 documentary about the college town's music scene hitting and happening. Bands like R.E.M. and the B-52's were starting to get big and noticed nationally. They brought a spotlight to Athens and other bands fed on it. Bands like [Pylon](#), [Love Tractor](#), [Flat Duo Jets](#), [Time Toy](#), [the Squalls](#), [Dreams So Real](#), and [Bar-B-Q Killers](#).



There was a **convergence**, of bands, place, sound, energy, and consumption. The bands wanted it, the people listening wanted it, and the town got wrapped up in it. Athens has a peculiarity to it, a beautiful, strange easy way, and that added to the spout. It was a renaissance. There was ivy and red clay and people wanted to party. People wanted to take part.

Why does a music scene hit and happen? Is it simply synchronicity? Things must line up – bands in a certain place, and people who want to hear them and take part.

Is that what is happening in Portland now, minus the ivy and clay?

The film's producer, **Bill Cody** was sitting on a beach north of Seattle when the idea to do *Athens Inside/Out* came to him. He had just finished working on *Uncommon Valor*, *Red Dawn*, and *Rambo II*. *Red Dawn* and *Rambo II* into a documentary about a music scene in a college town? :

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COMMUNITY

Classifieds



WHEELS:
Moving! Must
sell 1984 244
Volvo, great
car!

Lovelab



Ladytron
Women
Seeking Men

Lustlab



Find Your
Inner Slut.

Band of
the Week



Coconut
Coolouts

I had this idea to do a version of the Erroll Morris film [Vernon, FL](#) with music. I had read about Athens in various publications at the time and decided that this was the only town in America that might fit the bill. I then contacted my good friend Tony Gayton regarding whether he might be up for such a project and he said yes - or at least that he'd consider it.

R.E.M. happened to be playing in Vancouver a couple of weeks later and I went to the show. I knew nothing about rock shows at the time and after it was over I really didn't know how to approach them. But, I did notice that no one asked whether you had credentials if you were moving equipment (this was back when they used local crews at most places) so **I got on stage and started moving gear**. When Peter Buck exited the dressing room I turned to him and pulled out my resume. He told me to call R.E.M. in Athens and we went from there.

Trailer:



[PERMALINK](#)

COMMENTS

“Yap with
other
Stranger
readers.”

HOLY SHIT -- Bar-B-Q Killers are now my favorite band.

[1](#)

Obviously what makes a scene or at least what starts the scene is for a band or bands to get national exposure. Athens sure had that with REM and B-52's. But in

