

# VARIETY PLAYHOUSE

IN LITTLE 5 POINTS

**JON ANDERSON SOLO**  
TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE 2004  
FRI, JAN 16, 8:30PM

**JUNIOR BROWN**  
SAT, JAN 17, 8:30PM

**GOMEZ**  
SAT, JAN 24, 9PM

**HENRY ROLLINS**  
SPOKEN WORD  
SUN, JAN 25, 8PM

**TAJ MAHAL TRIO**  
FRI, JAN 30, 8:30PM

**RICKIE LEE JONES**  
SUN, FEB 1, 8PM

**ROBERT EARL KEEN**  
SAT, FEB 14, 9PM

FOR COMPLETE LISTING  
CALL 404-521-1786

WWW.VARIETY-PLAYHOUSE.COM

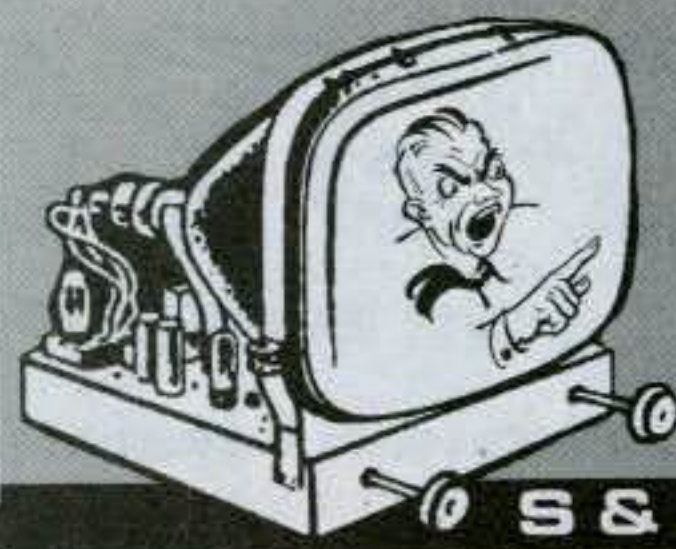
ticketmaster

ticketmaster.com

404.746.0000

© 2004 Ticketmaster Corporation

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission.



# EVERY PIXEL TELLS A STORY

S&S delivers the real DVDeal

## Athens, Ga.: Inside Out

[Music Video Distributors]

I hadn't watched this thing in probably ten years, and admittedly it's a hoot seeing it again, if only to spot the old friends and old hangouts, to see who's changed and who hasn't. To revisit ghosts of those who aren't with us now. But it's also sad in a way.

Because while Jim Herbert makes the claim early on in the film that part of what makes Athens "special" is that the bands are less music-industry-focused and don't feel the need to make it big in L.A. or New York, careerism was in fact a large part of Athens music even then - as it is now. No one *wants* to be stuck working at The Grill and playing the Caledonia every other weekend for the rest of their lives, do they? And what else are you gonna do here? Hell, wasn't it the first big Athens band, the B-52's, who moved

to New York to further their career? So what's sad is seeing the younger bands in this documentary, mostly unknown and fairly newly formed at the time, talking about their dreams of making it big, of losing the day jobs, getting a record out, all the stuff young bands always discuss cautiously if optimistically. The fact is, most of those bands were never heard from again outside of the state of Georgia. That's just the way it is, in music scenes everywhere - everyone has dreams, few come true. The singer from Time Toy says at one point he hopes to at least succeed to the point where he can quit the pizza parlour. Today, he bakes pizza for a living. People and priorities always change with time and age. But you keep dreaming anyway.

One of the most engaging presences in the film is actually Michael Stipe, which serves as a reminder of how much more likeable he was before he went from being a town character into a bad politician. R.E.M.'s two songs from the Lucy Cobb chapel also stand out - amidst an assembly line of primarily run-of-the-mill college-town bands playing in the same old beer pubs (during the daytime, mostly, though the windows are covered so as to give the false impression of late-night drunken revelry!), R.E.M. make a point of going in the opposite direction and living up to their then-growing mystique. And it works!

The one other performance that I had forgotten was so thrillingly powerful comes courtesy of the Bar-B-Q Killers. At the time, they were sorta

the black sheep of the Athens scene, kicking against the pricks. They made an album that, truthfully, wasn't very good. More people *said* they liked them than actually did (trust me on this, 'cause I remember there never being hardly anyone at their shows, at least the ones I saw). They never went much of anywhere. But shit! Watching them here, you're staggered by what a wild, untamed performer Laura Carter was, and what a jarring, nasty band they could be. I really believe that if they had emerged five years later than they did, they would've gone on to become one of the town's biggest acts. As it is, they paved the way for a louder/rawer sub-sect of Athens music that thrived in the late '80s to mid-'90s.

The added features on this DVD are extremely disappointing. A full 17 years in Athens' music evolution have passed since *Inside Out* was pieced together. Another whole documentary - or two, or three - could have been made based on all that's happened since. There's no real talk of the impact - whether small or large - this film had not only on Athens' scene but on burgeoning small-town music scenes nationwide. None of the bands in the original are revisited for any sort of revelatory post-script. No performance footage that didn't make the cut. What we get is the B-52's video for "Deadbeat Club" with the girls offering commentary on the early days of Athens, which is all they can really comment on since they moved out of town so early in their career; Jack White gushing about the Flat Duo Jets who were a Chapel Hill band included in *Inside Out* by a fluke; a couple of meandering outtakes that add nothing; and a fairly boring interview with Dave Schools taped in the past year or so.

Schools does make one solid if obvious point, however. Recounting the early years of Widespread Panic, he remembers how they'd play out-of-town gigs to people who only knew Athens music based on the B-52's and R.E.M., and who were shocked to learn that Panic didn't have that "Athens sound" - even though the B's and R.E.M. sounded little alike themselves! (On a side note, isn't it crazy how of all the newborn bands getting their feet wet around Athens at the time this doc was made, it was jammy Panic - who aren't even featured - and not one of the "cool" art-affected bands, that went on to become the town's next huge phenomenon?!) Athens' music scene was never dependent upon a sound, it thrived due to attitude - good *and* bad - and atmosphere. For what it's worth, both still remain, if significantly altered. (Jeff Clark)

## ATHENS, GA INSIDE OUT



R.E.M.  
B-52'S  
FLAT DUO JETS  
PYLON  
BAR-B-Q KILLERS  
LOVE TRACTOR  
...AND MORE!

# CIRCLE SKY RECORDS

**NEW & USED CDs, LPs & 45s**  
CASSETTES, 8-TRACKS, FANZINES,  
POSTERS, MUSIC VHS & DVDs,  
MEMORABILIA AND COLLECTIBLES

**FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE**  
"WELCOME INTERSTATE MANAGERS"

**THE PILLBUGS**  
"THE 3-DIMENSIONAL IN-POPCYCLE DREAM"

**DON'T MISS A CIRCLE SKY SHOW OR SALE! JOIN OUR MAILING LIST AT WWW.CIRCLESKYRECORDS.COM**

**3633E CHAMBLEE-TUCKER ROAD**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30341**  
**770-491-2100**

Chamblee-Tucker Road & I-285, just outside the Perimeter in the Embury Village Shopping Center. Across from Goodyear, next to MO-JOE's.