

[Dream Syndicate - Weathered And Torn](#)

DVD released: November 5, 2003.
Approximate running time: 70 Minutes
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 Fullscreen
Rating: NR
Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound
DVD Release: MVD
Region Coding: Region 0 NTSC
Retail Price: \$19.95

Reviewed by:
Ian Jane on January 27, 2005.



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The Film

The Dream Syndicate deserve a lot of credit, and they don't often get it. I'll be upfront right off the bat – they don't do a whole lot for me. But they were definitely innovators and their music went a long way towards shaping the face of 'alternative music' alongside such other early eighties bands like R.E.M. and The Smiths.

Kurt Cobain cited their album *Days Of Wine And Roses* (which got a lot of airplay on the college channels in North America) as a huge influence, and if they're even a partial bit responsible for Nirvana and the ensuing success that they left in their wake, kick starting the entire grunge movement into high gear, then they're very definitely not getting the recognition that they should have.

Part of the reason for this is likely because they weren't around all that long. They formed in 1981, put out their first record in 1982 (the aforementioned *Days Of Wine And Roses*), put out a few more albums throughout the decade (including 1984's *Medicine Show* which demonstrated a little bit of polish in the band's musicianship) until they called it quits after a couple of line up changes and finally split up for good in 1989.



That's where this documentary/concert/road movie comes into play, as it was shot during what would turn out to be the band's final tour. You can sense some of the tension between band members in this film. For the most part, it's their body language, they don't look like a band that's really comfortable with each other around all the time, and given the cramped confines of life on the road, that will inevitably lead to some tension.

Weathered And Torn gives a quiet, nonchalant look into the way that The Dream Syndicate operated during those final years through some interview footage, back stage footage, and candid footage, interspersed with some nicely shot live clips of the group performing in front of a few different audiences.



Video

2.5/5

The 1.33.1 image is presented fullframe, which is its original aspect ratio. This 'road movie' was shot on 16mm, and often times, from the looks of things, it was handheld. This gives the movie very much a fly on the wall feel – it doesn't look too slick or polished, but it's of decent enough quality that it isn't a chore to watch. The transfer does a fairly good job of bringing the film to DVD. There's some slight edge enhancement and some slight compression artifacting going on throughout but it isn't severe enough to warrant too much complaining on my end.



Audio

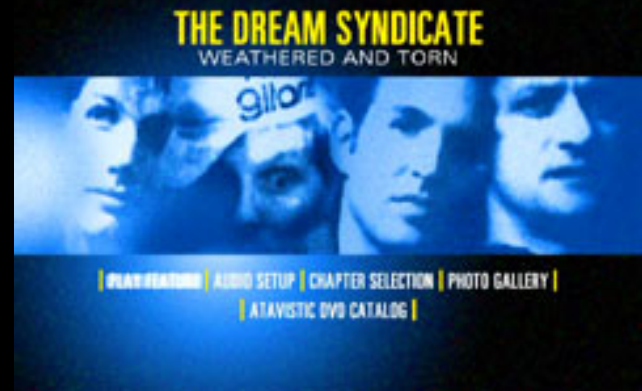
3/5

The newly created Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound track serves the film just fine. There are a few spots where the directional effects sound a little bit forced but for the most part the surrounds just open up the mix a little more, they don't really alter it. Dialogue, except for a few of the rougher scenes, sounds fine and the music comes through pretty clearly.

Extras

0.5/5

The only extra feature on this DVD is a photo gallery.



Overall

3.5/5

I'm honestly not a big fan of The Dream Syndicate. Their music, while very well played, never quite clicked with me the way that it did with a lot of people. Regardless, *Weathered And Torn* is a pretty decent look at the band during the beginning of the end, and MVD's DVD should make fans pretty happy.

Film Rating		DVD Rating
Director:	Johnathon Baskin, Peter Cooper	Film: ★★☆☆
Writer:	N/A	Video: ★★★★★
Released:	1992	Audio: ★★☆☆
Cast:	Dream Syndicate	Extras: ★★☆☆
		Overall: ★★☆☆

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