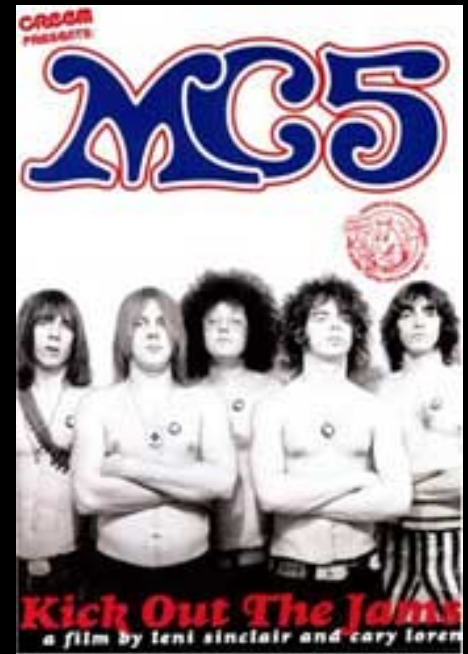


[MC5: Kick Out The Jams](#)

DVD released: July 12, 2005
Approximate running time: 32 Minutes
Aspect ratio: 1.33:1
Rating: NR
Sound: ENGLISH: Dolby Digital 5.1/2.0
DVD Release: Target Video/MVD
Region Coding: Region 0 NTSC
Retail Price: \$14.95

Reviewed by:
Don Guarisco on July 28, 2005



Quick links: [\[video\]](#) [\[audio\]](#) [\[extras\]](#) [\[overall\]](#)

The Film

The story of the MC5 is one of the great tales of rock and roll. Starting in the late 1960's, the MC5 combined revolutionary rhetoric with blistering hot Detroit rock and roll. Like most underground bands who go overground, they suffered through the usual record-company mishandling but still managed to produce three classic albums that remain influential to this day.

A documentary of their story would be amazing... but it would also be tough to do as a few of the key members of the group have passed on and their work wasn't extensively documented via film and television. *MC5: Kick Out The Jams* attempts to fill that space with something that is equal parts tribute and found-footage collage. It's not entirely successful but it does succeed in conveying the group's unique persona.

MC5: Kick Out The Jams is essentially a short subject that combines footage of the group shot by Leni Sinclair, the wife of the group's manager/mentor John Sinclair, with a collection of early recordings by the group. It was assembled by Cary Loren, the co-founder of *Destroy All Monsters*, to create a sort of audiovisual 'happening' where the images provide a sort of counterpoint to the sound. The recording quality is



raw but this suits the music's lean, mean tone and some of the visuals are genuinely inspired (*like a montage of counter-culture buttons that plays while "The Pledge Song" rings out on the soundtrack*).

On the downside, Loren only has so much footage to work with and that places limitations on the program's overall effectiveness. None of the live footage has synchronized sound, which leads to some awkward (*and none too convincing*) post-synching of different recordings. Also, there simply wasn't enough footage of the band to sustain a full half-hour so the film starts to repeat itself visually during its second half. Finally, some of the video effects added to the footage come off as a bit too 'on the nose' – like the video-toaster flames superimposed over some live footage during "Motor City Is Burning."

Still, if you're a fan of the MC5 you'll want to see this. Any footage of the group is as rare as hens' teeth and the songs are unimpeachably great stuff. At the very least, **MC5: Kick Out The Jams** makes good audiovisual wallpaper for the discerning rocker to have on in the background.



Video

2.5/5

The film footage used here is of a home-movie quality, and not the best-preserved home movie footage at that. However, this visually raw aesthetic is used to the filmmaker's advantage, with video effects added to achieve a genuinely psychedelic 'journey through the past' kind of look.



Audio

2.5/5

Both 2.0 and 5.1 Dolby stereo mixes are provided here. The two sound pretty similar but the 5.1 mix has just a little more warmth and depth. The original recordings used for the soundtrack are raw in the extreme but this suits the film's mood well – and the stereo remixes give them plenty of punch.

Extras

2/5

The one extra presented here is a video interview with John Sinclair. Unfortunately, someone involved with the disc has decided to mix in a spoken word performance into the background of the interview's soundtrack in a way that is irritating at best and obtrusive at worst. If you can get past this annoyance, Sinclair is worth listening to – he's got a good memory, debunks some oft-repeated myths about the MC5's beginnings and engages in some amusing trash-talk about the Warhol-era Velvet Underground and Cream.



Overall

3/5

MC5: Kick Out The Jams will be of limited interest to non-converts but fans will love the rare footage and live recordings.

Order this disc from: www.xploitedcinema.com

Film Rating		DVD Rating
Director:	Cary Loren	Film: ★★★
Writer:	N/A	Video: ★★½
Released:	2005	Audio: ★★★
Cast:	MC5	Extras: ★★
		Overall: ★★★

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