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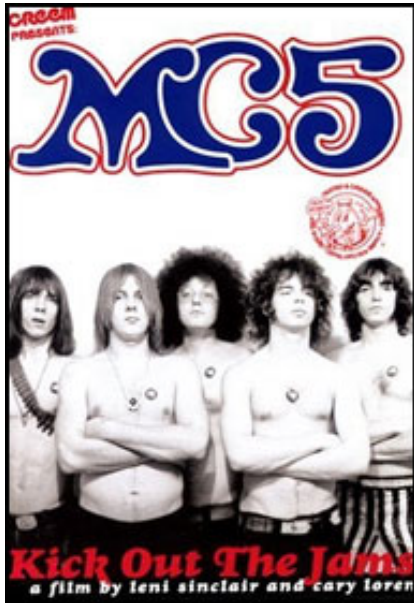


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★★★★☆

GENRE

rock

CREDITS

Produced By Leni Sinclair, Cary Loren

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Creem Presents...MC5 - Kick Out the Jams!

MVD

WORDS

E.S. Hurt

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The MC5 were a great rock and roll band, and they're not nearly as well known as the Stooges, Ramones or Clash, all of whom owe the seminal Michigan group a huge debt. *Kick Out the Jams* portrays the group as they were--caught between the fuzzy politics of the '60s and the harder-edged anti-politics of the next decade.

This short video (35 minutes) is a mixture of footage shot by Leni Sinclair--the wife of White Panther and *Guitar Army* author John Sinclair. I have an autographed copy of the book, how about that? I met Mr. Sinclair down in New Orleans some years ago, and he's an amazing, affable and fascinating fellow with a love for blues, jazz, soul, rock and roll, poetry. Anyway, Sinclair's footage is mixed with some stroboscopic freeform flickerings done by Cary Loren, the conceptual artist and founder of the band Destroy All Monsters. The footage itself is fairly amazing, showing Fred Sonic Smith and Rob Tyner and Wayne Kramer at their best. Some of the material is a bit lame, sure, but when they were on, the MC5 were indeed the missing link between mutant r&b and jazz and what we now call skronk. These be white boys in love with soul.

There's a great promo video of "Kick Out the Jams" and many shots of the audience, which is just as fascinating, and poignant, as those in the film you might know about the happenings at Altamont in '69. And some funny fashion statements from the band, too. So while it's a short film and isn't the best place for fans to

Sugarcult Go "Back To The Disaster"
November 15th

start, you get a real sense of where the band came from and their impossible ambition.

Bonus material is John Sinclair eating a hamburger--a good one from the looks of it--and smoking a Camel, rambling, at a joint called Crazy Jim's in 1993. He looks like he knows it all and has deliberately tried to remember only what is useful. A fine man, a good video, and a neglected band. Go out and buy the records.

Details

Track Listing

01. Looking at You
02. Ramblin' Rose
03. Kick Out the Jams
04. Black to Comm
05. I Want You Right Now
06. Rocket Reducer No. 02 (Rama Lama Fa Fa Fa)
07. The Pledge Song
08. Come Together
09. Starship
10. Motor City Is Burning
11. Shakin' Street
12. John Sinclair Live at Crazy Jim's 11/19/03

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