

Sound and Vision

Wading through the flood of music DVDs

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Published September 21, 2005

As digital video technology gets increasingly easier and less expensive, more and more elements of the music industry are employing the DVD format as both promotion and product. It's not just the major labels these days - everyone from unsigned bands to package-tour promoters to longtime fans with tons of archival footage on their hands is investing in releases that marry the music to images and an almost unlimited potential for "special features" (read: superfluous crap).

MC5 - Kick Out The Jams

Music Video Distributors

The Gist: Eleven songs (or portions of songs, or long stretches of freakout masquerading as songs) performed by the Detroit proto-punk legends and set to cheesy psychedelic videos, live footage and images from the dark side of the '60s.

The Extras: An interview with MC5 manager/'60s provocateur/White Panther Party leader John Sinclair; music featuring spoken word by Sinclair is mixed into the audio, making the whole thing so irritating it's barely watchable.

The Verdict: Another thrown-together cash-in - what's the point of using live performances by one of the most volatile bands in rock history, and not giving us the show itself?
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