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Lou Reed: Tribute Box Set

By [Steve Wippich](#)

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Lou Reed

Tribute (Chrome Dreams)

If you are looking for a video devoted to telling Lou Reed’s story, this 3-disc set will have a lot that has nothing to do with Lou Reed. The title is a bit of misnomer. It is three DVDs that are interesting that apparently were released separately before his death. The three were apparently repackaged, put in a boxed set to capitalize on Lou Reed’s death.

One is devoted to the story of the Velvet Underground. Lou Reed was definitely the main force in the Velvets, although they did record one last album without him. It has some good interview pieces with VU members Moe Tucker, Doug Yule, album cover artist Billy Name, Robert Christgau of the Village Voice, and other rock critics and historians. One thing revealed by the doc that I was not aware of is that they rarely played in New York by choice. They did play a lot in Boston where they were a big dance party band. They say people there would have bought their records if they could find them there. They were not well distributed mainly due to the controversial subject material.

Another DVD “The Sacred Triangle: Bowie, Iggy, and Lou” is mostly about David Bowie and how influential he was and how we went from basically riffing off Marc Bolan’s folkie Tyrannosaurus Rex then to his glammy T Rex to a style more akin to Lou Reed and Iggy Pop. Then, he went on to pull Iggy out of the gutter and get him back out his self-destructive dive to being a productive musician again. Gotta give him props for that. He then produced Reed’s ‘Transformer,’ and helped get his solo career off. There are many interview bits with Bowie’s ex-wife. She tells of early David trying so desperately to be famous and hit it big, then on to getting big and being an industry mover and shaker.

The last (in no particular order) is “Punk Revolution NYC: Part One 1966-1974: The Velvet Underground, The New York Dolls & the CBGBs set” and that’s what that is about. This one has some great stories from Suicide’s Alan Vega, Jayne County, Richard Lloyd (from being a Factory hanger-outer to great Television guitarist), some nice insight from Richard Hell, Robert Christgau, Victor Bockris, and others. There is some really early Television practice that is awful

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but kinda interesting to see how they progressed and shows the spirit of the punk movement of cultivating what limited abilities you have to make art.

So these DVDs do tell a lot about Lou Reed, but they are not devoted to his story alone by any means. Much of it is about his time in the Velvet Underground, which is great and there is a bit about him collaborating with Bowie on Transformer but hardly anything about his solo career. The discs are some good watching but not solely devoted to Lou Reed.

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