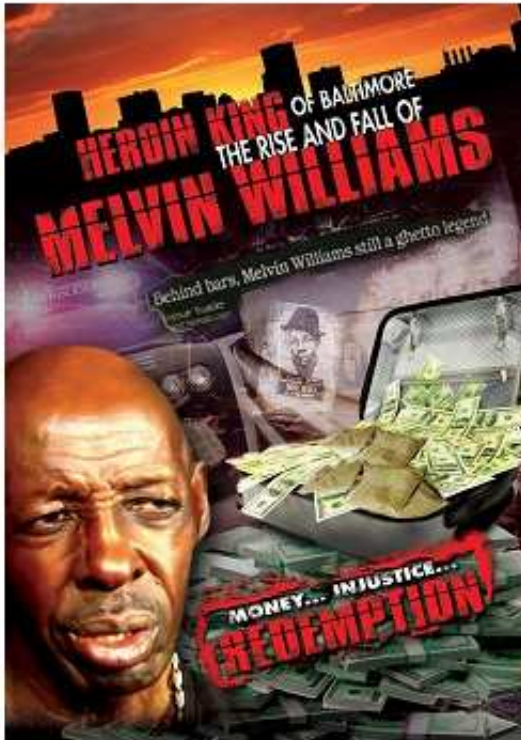


Heroin King of Baltimore: The Rise and Fall of Melvin Williams



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/HeroinKingofBaltimore.jpg>) **Official Synopsis:**

Melvin Williams was the heroin king of Baltimore who amassed nearly a half billion dollars during the 70's and early 80's. After the Martin Luther King assassination, Baltimore City officials would call on Melvin Williams, age 27, to help stop the riots. Famous in Baltimore for telling the rioters to stop and go home, Williams left the police bewildered that they didn't have enough power to stop the riots even with the armed forces involved. However, instead of being grateful, the powers that be saw Williams as a threat and would ultimately frame him and put him behind bars for 26 years.

Our Take:

Heroin King of Baltimore: The Rise and Fall of Melvin Williams was overall interesting, but not the best looking documentary of all time. The substance of the documentary is good, but it looks kinda, well... not good, to be nice. Melvin Williams started out as a small hustler shooting pool, throwing dice, etc., and eventually ran most of the heroin in the Baltimore area during the 1960s and 70s. He would be the inspiration for one of the main characters in **The Wire** and he himself starred in the show (he was Deacon). I watch a lot of those gang/drug trafficking shows on The History Channel and NatGeo so I found the material in the documentary very interesting, but the biggest flaw is the look of the film itself.

Obviously, this isn't some huge budget documentary, but a lot of the re-enactments looked bad. They used the same actors to play different roles and the music throughout (even when people were talking) just wasn't necessary. Melvin's reign was the '60s/'70s, yet the re-enactments have all current cars, technology, clothing

etc. It just really bothered me.

Special Features:

None

Conclusion:

If you are a fan of **The Wire**, I definitely recommend **Heroin King of Baltimore** to you. If you like any of the shows on gang banging you can randomly find on TV, I recommend it to you too. Fascinating story even if it's not the best quality film.

OVERALL RECOMMENDED!

Overall Picture:

Film: **B-**

Extra Features: **F**

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Published on April 08, 2013

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