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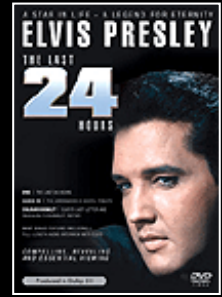
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PRESLEY, ELVIS • The Last 24 Hours • (MVD)**Westy rates it:** 🍌🍌🍌**ELVIS PRESLEY
The Last 24 Hours
(2004 MVD)**

Most rabid Elvis fans like me are aware of what happened to The King the day he died. (Yes, he was on the commode when it happened. Whoopee. It'll probably happen that way to me, too.) ELVIS PRESLEY: THE LAST 24 HOURS is a documentary-type DVD detailing the events of August 16th, 1977...the last hours of Elvis' life. Or August 17th if you go by the back of the DVD cover, which is 110% incorrect. Apparently the makers of this film didn't listen very closely to the people they were interviewing.



One's immediate reaction to the beginning of this DVD might be of horror at the annoying British accent during the introduction voiceover. Or maybe it's Australian; I can't tell. Aren't they the same countries, anyway? The good news is this voice is only used only sporadically throughout the DVD. Whew!

An overall evaluation of this documentary is simple to give. Although it's far from exceptional, it is time well-spent for those interested and uninformed about the last days of Elvis. Especially interesting is the fact that the entire story is told by Elvis' closest friends and confidants. Some of their stories I've heard before, some of them I have not.

Lamar Fike, Elvis' security chief, is especially entertaining to listen to. In an attempt to discredit the notion that his former boss's drug habit was an attempt to "escape" Fike replies by calling it nonsense and saying "He just fuckin' loved 'em". Another interesting story told by Fike and Elvis bodyguard, Sonny West, details the reckless gambling habits of Elvis' manager Colonel Parker's.

Larry Geller, Elvis's hairdresser and spiritual guide, is also featured in length during this documentary. I first learned of Geller while reading his 1989 book, "If I Can Dream." The book was based on Geller's personal diary while living with and working for Elvis. If you can find it, it's a pretty damn good book. As for this documentary, Geller is, if nothing else, dramatic with his storytelling abilities.

The music used in this DVD is not Elvis singing. Instead we are graced with his former backup singers, The Jordanaires. I don't have a problem with The Jordanaires, but I must admit it sounded rather strange. I can only assume there were legal issues that prevented the producers to use actual Elvis recordings. If not, this was a stupid move.

The DVD extras are so-so, at best. There's a bonus cd of The Jordanaires's Gospel Tribute to Elvis. Yippee. Squeezed in among the other little nuggets not worth mentioning...I did find the handwriting analysis (small booklet included) to be interesting.

All in all, this was an average production for rabid Elvis fans....but a pretty decent one for those unfamiliar with Elvis' final day or so. The main portion of this DVD is without a doubt the best part. The program runs about an hour. Don't let the extras entice you, though. They're not that special.

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