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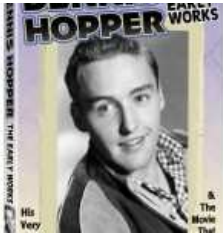
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## [Dennis Hopper: The Early Works](#)

By

[Upchuck Undergrind](#)– December 14, 2010 Posted in: [Reviews](#)

You think “Easy Rider” is early Dennis Hopper. Sort of, but by comparison, the items on this disc are the real early work. These reach back to truly EARLY appearances by the talented screen icon. Even in these roles – shot when Hopper was still a young man – he demonstrates remarkable screen presence and dimension. Hell, you could argue that in some of these cases he probably put more talent into the work than was required. The programs (and one film) present here cover a diverse range of material. Teledrama is the name of the game in “Medic” and “Public Defender.” Hopper’s appearance in the former show features him in the role of an epileptic (this episode used what were at the time seminal “solarization” methods to illustrate what epilepsy is like for the epileptic). In “Public Defender” Hopper appears as a young man on trial for murder. The actor who would go on to greatness appears as a young man working off his debt on a farm in his “Loretta Young Show” appearance. Then, for a special surprise, Hopper shows up on “Petticoat Junction” – of all shows! – playing a far-out beatnik mixing with the country folks. The major treat here is “Night Tide”, a dark, curious and unique psychothriller from the early 60s. Hopper is a sailor on leave who meets up and falls in love with a beautiful young woman. But these lovers’ stars are crossed. Murder puts in an appearance, as do clues to a strange possibility: Is Hopper’s love interest a man-killing mermaid? Or is there another explanation. “Night Tide” is an exercise in mood and suspense. It requires patience since it opts for a low-key, downtempo approach rather than over-the-top zingy thrills, but its cerebral take and one-of-a-kind story – not to mention the thick atmosphere and an early lead performance from Hopper – make this sleeper worth a look. Finally, there are trailers featuring Hopper. It’s 3 hours of young Dennis Hopper for fans of the actor. Visit [www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com).

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