

MOVIE CITY NEWS

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Hard Core Logo/Hard Core Logo 2

Just as difficult as it is to imagine anyone attempting to make a mockumentary about Frank Sinatra, Maria Callas or Miles Davis in their artistic prime, it's that easy to argue that several of the best movies about rock 'n' roll are satires. There's so little difference between truth and fiction that such very real documentaries as "Dig!," "Hype!" and "Last Days Here" seem too preposterous to be true. Bruce McDonald and Noel Baker's "**Hard Core Logo**" — an adaptation of Michael Turner's novel about aging punk rockers — is considered to be one of the best examples of *faux* non-fiction, albeit one in which "mock" doesn't necessarily equate to "funny." At its lightest, the self-described mockumentary is the color of ink and often no more amusing. The fake Canadian punk ensemble Hard Core Logo made a reputation for itself by combining a take-no-prisoners attitude with a playlist of kick-ass songs. After the group disbands, a fan asks the members to reunite for an anti-gun benefit to support a music "legend," who, we're told, had his legs blown off in an assault. Self-absorbed lead singer Joe Dick (Hugh Dillon) convinces guitarist Billy Tallent (Callum Keith Rennie) to return to the Great White North from California, where he'd gotten a gig with a more popular band. The benefit goes so well that the band members agree to embark on a tour of the hinterlands. The other members are content to get back on the road, where they can raise a little hell before admitting they're too old to rock. Somewhere between Saskatoon and Vancouver, things begin to unravel. Truths are revealed and egos are bruised. Turner, Baker and McDonald all have enjoyed a bird's-eye view of the Canadian punk scene and "HLC" benefits from their collective memory.

Fourteen years later, McDonald revisited the tale in "**Hard Core Logo 2**," but without the assistance of Turner and Baker. It is far less successful. The story focus on a Courtney Love clone (rocker Care Failure, playing herself) who believes she's possessed by the twisted spirit of Joe Dick and is on a highway to hell. A demented character from the first film agrees to produce her next album in a snowbound lodge in Saskatchewan and it becomes an exercise in sadomasochism. McDonald's greatest lapse in judgment comes in turning his own character, Bruce the Filmmaker, into a central player in the *faux* drama. Hitchcock appeared in his pictures for only a few seconds at a time and McDonald's no Hitchcock. Even so, fans of the original might find something in this punk nightmare to their liking. They certainly will be pleased by the handsome new package and restoration, which makes both films look and sound great. The set adds interviews and featurettes. — Gary Dretzka

<http://moviecitynews.com/2012/12/the-dvd-wrapup-why-stop-now-2-days-in-new-york-360-hard-core-logo-following-black-like-me-osombie-more/>