



Video Fix #1: Hard Core Logo - By Jim Kaz

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Greetings and welcome to the first installment of *Video Fix*. I'm excited as all hell to be doing this, especially in this wonderful new mag. For those who haven't stumbled upon my meanderings in other mags or sites, the mission is pretty simple: we talk about things we find interesting. That doesn't always mean good things. But since it's all so subjective anyway, that part of it doesn't really matter. What does matter is that you'll hopefully gain some insight into things you're not seeing everywhere else; films, DVDs and Blu-rays that aren't very top of mind in other major sites or mags. With that, it's my serious pleasure to introduce this column's very first feature, the vastly undervalued *Hard Core Logo* (1996), which has just recently hit Blu-ray disc.



This mockumentary follows fictitious Canadian punk band Hard Core Logo from their reunion show through a subsequent tour across Canada. Led by the outspoken "Ioe Dick" on vocals, the



led by the outspoken Joe Dick on vocals, the dysfunctional band is filled out by conflicted guitarist Billy Tallent, mentally ill bass player John Oxenberger and drummer/resident bonehead, Pipefitter. The band had previously tasted success during the '80s, but broke up due to volatile personal conflicts, mostly centering on Dick's caustic outbursts. Now after a five-year

absence, HCL is back and director Bruce McDonald takes a similar approach to Rob Reiner's in *This Is Spinal Tap*, by filming the band's every waking hour, and stirring the pot to get heated moments on camera.

Along the way, revelations surface that give insight into the sad situation the band currently finds itself in. On the journey, the players encounter a series of cluster-fucks and absurd situations that make the film both painful and funny at once.

Actor Hugh Dillon steals the show as the foul-mouthed and confrontational Joe Dick, who will stop at nothing to ensure the band's reunion and legacy goes beyond the fistfights that plague any given night's show. While Dick is most dedicated to the cause, he is also his own worst enemy and generally sabotages any momentum the band generates. His relationship with guitarist Billy Tallent (Callum Keith Rennie) is a complex one. The life-long partners in crime share something intense. They fight like brothers and ex-lovers, and there are hints that the latter situation may have occurred at some point.



The actors' chemistry as a band is spot on. And the music attributed to it is also quite good. Played for the soundtrack by Hugh Dillon and the band Swamp Baby, the songs are rousing, street-punk anthems rife with fist pumping, chain-gang choruses. Numbers such as the sarcastic "Who the Hell Do You Think You Are?" and the self-explanatory "Rock & Roll Is Fat and Ugly" are infectious, and warrant at the very least, a paid download.

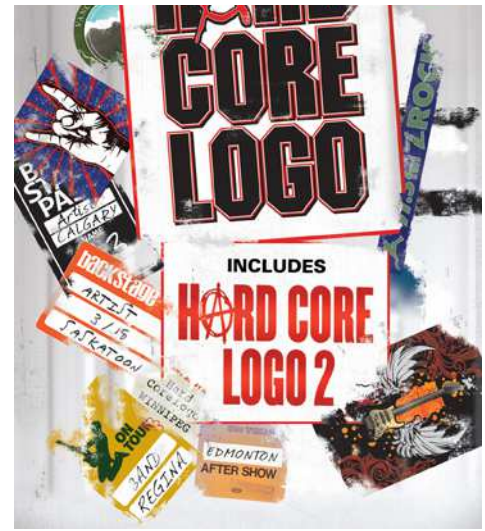
The internal band dynamics are equally intriguing. Tallent is on his way up career-wise, outside of HCL, while Dick's only got the past to cling to, along with the slim chance that the reunion will reignite his failed fortunes. The end is as raw as the music itself, and pays fitting tribute to the legacy of this fictitious band and its troubled leader. And that's the key to this film, it's all so real, without relying on all-too-obvious rock 'n' roll clichés or melodrama to carry it through.

Recently released on sterling Blu-ray (MVD), the package also includes the sequel *Hard Core Logo 2*, an entertaining but less impactful follow-up with faint connections to the

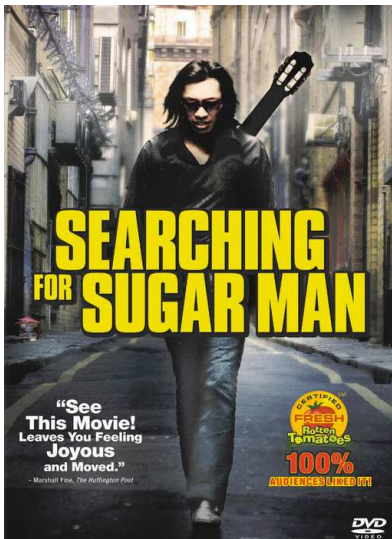


original, but is nice to have, nevertheless.

For questions, comments or something you'd like to see, hit me up at retrohead77@yahoo.com. Bring on the New Noise!



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Searching For Sugarman

Obscure '70s singer/songwriter Rodriguez fails to sell records and falls out of the public eye, only to late find out that he's been having hits for years in apartheid South Africa. It's an astonishing story made all the more crazy by the fact that it's true. (Sony)

www.sonyclassics.com/searchingforsugarman

Dredd

The world is an irradiated wasteland and the population is crammed into a city policed by badass judges on motorcycles. This new take on the comic is bleak and gritty, with hypnotic special effects that heighten the insanity. It's also got an interesting villainess in the snaggle-toothed and wretched Ma-Ma, played by the usually dishy, Lena Headey. (Lionsgate)

www.dreddthemovie.com

