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Home Video DVD Review: Ali: The Man, The Moves, The Mouth

"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

DVD Review: Ali: The Man, The Moves, The Mouth

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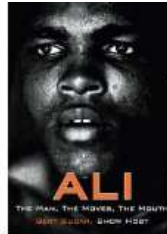
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"I'm the greatest!" crowed Muhammad Ali, and proved it over and over. Was there ever a more entertaining figure in the world of boxing than he? Not to this fan. In fact, at his prime Ali was the most riveting sports figure the world has ever seen. He had it all, as the title of the new one-hour documentary Ali: The Man, The Moves, The Mouth proves over and over.



The great Bert Sugar narrates the film, which highlights every major fight of his career. Among other, non-fight related topics, there is some great footage of him meeting the Beatles. We also see the moment when Cassius Clay became Muhammad Ali, when he joined the Nation of Islam in 1964. His religious beliefs led him to vociferous opposition to the Vietnam War, which he paid dearly for. In 1967, Ali was stripped of his Heavyweight Championship title, and convicted of draft evasion. He would not fight again for nearly four years.

When he did regain his boxing license in 1970, Ali won against Jerry Quarry, and Oscar Bonavena. These matches paved the way for "The Fight of the Century," with Ali vs. the then undefeated Joe Frazier on August 8, 1971. Frazier won this bout, but Ali continued to fight, Champion or not, there was probably nobody more famous either inside or outside of the ring during the '70s.

There is classic footage of Ali verbally sparring with Howard Cosell, which is priceless. As the decade wore on, his fights became *events*. There were hugely hyped bouts with Ken Norton, two more against Joe Frazier, and maybe the most famous match of all, "The Rumble in the Jungle." Anyone who was around in those days has to remember his famous "rope-adope" technique against George Foreman during that one, which took place on October 30, 1974 in Zaire.

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boxing • Cassius Clay • George Foreman • Joe Frazier • Muhammed Ali

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Article Author: Greg Barbrick

Greg Barbrick is an old time "music biz" groupie/writer. He thinks that nothing good has been recorded since 1978.

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