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Kiss Loves You

8th Grade Films/ MVD Visual

Homemade documentaries can be fun but finding one you really gain something from can be a daunting task. *Kiss Loves You* is another misfire in my seemingly never ending quest for excellent documentaries. While it's not the enlightened piece of journalism I had hoped it would be, I will give the folks at 8th Grade Films credit where credit is due; this is certainly a funny, yet slightly unnerving, look at just how serious Kiss fans take themselves.

Kiss Loves You is a documentary that is, at it's core, a compilation of interviews from some of Kiss' biggest fans. I have to admit that, more than once, I found myself wondering how some of these super fans could talk about Kiss so seriously while keeping a straight face. I mean, I love Kiss and I love music, I even consider myself a die-hard fan of a few bands, but some of these guys are certainly using the monolith to escape their home world in unhealthy ways.

Now, not all the super fans here are obsessive, compulsive basement dwellers. As a matter of fact, the guys in the Kiss tribute bands seem to have a solid grasp on the fact that Kiss is a living cartoon (and I doubt Gene Simmons or Paul Stanley would argue that point) and their stage show is like a Cartoon network version of a Hanna-Barbara classic. They hit all the right points but can't escape the age in which they live. The inclusion of Todd Youth (Danzig, Son of Sam) here was a nice surprise, I'd never expected him to pop up on something like this and, honestly, it lends the documentary a little legitimacy.

The extras here include outtakes, uncirculated film of Kiss at a '76 concert in Stockholm (which is a ...silent film), and some cool extended footage from the press conference aboard the USS Intrepid where Kiss announced their reunion. The DVD also includes the *Beyond Vaudeville Kiss Spectacular*, a New York City public access show from yesteryear.

You could consider this a *Trekkies* for the Kiss genre in many ways but the obsessed fans here are a much less well-rounded group of individuals. It's an

**okay watch once but I doubt it'd be something to put on when your buddies
come over, even if you are die hard fans of the band.**

Reviewed by Mark Fisher

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