

EO + DVD

Style Wars This classic 1983 documentary on the roots of graffiti was released on DVD last year to much deserved acclaim. Not only is the film a seminal text on the art form, but the two-dise set fleshes out the original PBS offering with outtakes, director and producer commentary, and, on the second disc, interviews with deejays, b-boys, and artists from the era who continue to be influenced by it. Watching the film again, peepalty



Style Wars This classic 1983 documentary on the roots of graffiti was released on DVD last year to much deserved acclaim. Not only is the film a seminal text on the art form, but the two-disc set fleshes out the original PBS offering with outtakes, director and producer commentary, and, on the second disc, interviews with deejays, b-boys, and artists from the era who continue to be influenced by it. Watching the film again recently. after spending time on a subway filled with hideous Xacto-knife chicken scratch and ugly Magic Marker scrawling, all of which are labeled graffiti, made me chuckle at how even the narcissism of today pales to that of yesteryear. The kids in Style Wars admitted that they wanted their names to be known and seen all over the city when they tagged trains, billboards, etc. That's what drove them. But there was also a pride in the artfulness of the endeavor that forced them to develop a style, a recognizable signature—to make art. Compare that to so much of what we see blanketing cities now (while admitting that there is still very much a serious culture of graffiti), and what we're often given is the ink-andblade caterwauling of aesthetically impotent youth brigades who settle for assaultive ugliness in their quest to be seen.

lawyer wife, Edie, continues to prove she's one of the smartest, sexiest women currently making movies. You can't take your eyes off her, and the slight huskiness in her voice and the intelligence in her eyes make all her scenes rewind-worthy. But of all the philosophical and moral layers in the film, one of the most provocative is peeled back in a knucleb-aning, lust-and-loathing sex scene between Tom and Edie. There we see the primal pull of male power as it manifests in violence, but we also get Edie's revulsion at both the manifestation and her visceral attraction to it. It's a perfectly played scene that smartly captures the many currents of thought (conscious and sub-) and emotion (evolved and pure gut) that roil around violence as it simmers in our everyday lives. DVD