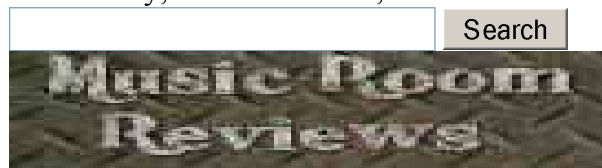


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America's Music Legacy: RockNRoll DVD Review

Published on November 5, 2010 by [Christina Zawadiwsky](#) · No Comments

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Want to see Lesley Gore and Lou Christy kiss and Chubby Checker dance? Then watch the DVD **America's Music Legacy: Rock 'N Roll**, released by MVD on October 19, 2010, a concert about the 50s and 60s hosted by Fabian who tells us that "we ain't getting older, we're getting better" in front of a vast audience in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. What excitement, what thrills! The line-up is spectacular (including The Coasters, Bo Diddly, The Diamonds, and Little Anthony). One also feels, watching it, as if you are RIGHT THERE, amidst all the clapping and energy and great musical doo wop company!

Chubby Checker raises the adrenalin of the audience to such great heights it's transcendent, calling out "Let's twist again, Twisting Time is here!" There are on-stage close-ups of the piano players and back-up musicians and stage dancers that cut to the audience, who seem to meld into each other less in a frenzy than in ecstatic harmony. "Yeah, just like this!" Chubby extols, dancing every second and never missing a beat. Something about the "round and round and round and round" till "We got it now!" is mesmerizing. What a night!

The highly-polished Coasters (four black men in white suits who give off both friendliness and sophistication) show that they aren't slouches either as they too sport "that old-time rocknroll, the kind of music that soothes my soul." Their renditions of Poison Ivy, Charlie Brown and Yakety-Yak, among other songs, couldn't shoot out greater energy!

Later Fabian does a slightly more mellow set of his own and then introduces "the falsetto that taught Stevie Ray Vaughn, Lou Christy" (who tells the crowd "You thought I was gonna be 300 lbs. and bald, right?"). Christy stamps his unique imprint, followed by Leslie Gore's pleas about It's My Party (And I'll Cry If I Want To), and (My Love Is) Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows. Afterwards the Crystals, in beautiful long red gowns split very high up on the thigh, sing He's A Rebel with great bouts of in-band harmony. The lead songstress tells us "a love story" and then asks, "you tell me if it's a love story or just a story, all right?" This is about the song He's The Boy I Love, followed by the famous And Then He Kissed Me. They not only "twist" and "jerk", they "swim" too! The Crystals tell the audience that they look GOOD and should applaud themselves.

"It all started with them a long time ago in Canada, and they started a dance called The Stroll," host Fabian tells us, and we meet three guys in white pants and red jackets, The Diamonds, singing Two Silhouettes On The Shade. They harmonize and lift us above our mortal travails, talking about Dick Clark's American Bandstand. "How many of you can do The Stroll?" they ask, ending with "the national anthem of rocknroll, Little Darlings."

"When we talk about originals, that's what this guy is all about....Little Antony!" Antony has on a red bow tie, black jacket, white shirt, grey pants and sings in an almost unbelievable falsetto voice in Tears On My Pillow and tells us about growing up in the projects in Brooklyn and playing basketball. Then he sings the well-known It Hurts So Bad. He tells us that we don't have to call him Little because he has eight kids and is twice a grandfather, but he looks entirely young, just as he did when Little Antony and The Imperials sold over a million records with Shimmy Shimmy Ko Ka Bop and over two million with Well I Think I'm Going Out Of My Head.

Lastly, "Before Alan Freed, before Elvis Presley, I'm talking about the Father Of Rocknroll, there was Bo Diddly," says Fabian, and Bo, dressed in light blue, tells us, "You want rocknroll, you got it Baby!" and plays Hand Jive on his unusual rectangular guitar, custom-made for him long ago. His dignified presence has the audience shouting out lyrics as we watch his black hat with many buttons on it and he sings "I'm A Man, M-A-N. I'm a hootchie-kootchie man!" He strolls the stage and tells us that in "Nineteen-hundred and fifty-five, Rocknroll came alive!"

I can't imagine anyone not wanting to have been at this live concert! At the end, Fabian proclaims to the audience, speaking for all of the musicians, "We love you!"

Directed by Theodore Bikel

Running Time 120 minutes

With Fabian, Lesley Gore, Lou Christy, Chubby Checker, Little Antony, The Diamonds, The Coasters, The Crystals and Bo Diddly

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