

copy that I have is from the UK's Masters of Cinema, and it is amazing. I've seen **Repo Man** at least a dozen times and didn't have high hopes for its appearance in HD, but once it was cleaned up it looked and sounded really amazing. As good as the video is, and it is flawless, it was the audio track that really stood out. A film with a soundtrack as good as this deserves a great sound mix, and this definitely qualifies.

From what I'm able to glean online, the MoC and Criterion discs share many of the central bonus features, so I'll try to give a brief overview of the main draws. The first is the infamous "Melon Farmer" TV version of the film presented in 1080i. This is the redubbed version of the film with all profanity altered for TV and is so famously ridiculous that it's been bootlegged for years. There's also a featurette from the previous DVD version of the film titled *Repossessed* which is about a half an hour long and reasonably in-depth. In fact, apart from the TV version and a ten minute exclusive intro from Alex Cox, all of the extras on this disc were available on the previous Focus Features DVD special edition: a Harry Dean Stanton interview, deleted scenes, and a commentary. The real gem, in my opinion, is the booklet, a 44-page illustrated production history designed by Cox himself and reproduced in Criterion's Blu-ray edition. This is probably the finest booklet I've seen from Masters of Cinema to date, and one I revisit a lot.

In short, if you're in Region B land (UK, Europe, Australia), this is a great disc to have. If you're in a Region A part of the world (North America, South America, East/Southeast Asia), the Criterion is almost identical but with fancier packaging. Take your pick. Nerds will want both, and I count myself among that group.

Next up is the **Hard Core Logo** series, which I will approach as a single entity, even though one is significantly superior to the other. The original **Hard Core Logo** is Canadian filmmaker Bruce McDonald's punk version of **This is Spinal Tap** mixed with a comedy version of classic punk road doc, **Another State of Mind**, a tour document of a fictitious band of legacy punk rockers fighting to maintain their relevance in the modern world of 1996. This was a time when, thanks to bands like Green Day, The Offspring, and Rancid, punk was en vogue, and many groups that were popular in the early days began to reform. Whether it was for love or money depends on the band, but they were certainly all heading out onto the road with dollar signs in their eyes, only to be sadly disappointed when the reality came crashing down on them.

The conflict in **Hard Core Logo** centers around lead singer Joe Dick and his guitar player Billy Talent. Talent has been recruited by a mainstream rock group and is simply biding his time in HCL as a weigh station between the dumps and stardom and Dick resents every minute of it. Along the way we have unmedicated psychos, benefits for punks in need, and lots and lots of attitude from Joe Dick. McDonald does a decent job of staying out of the way, but his "documentary" facade goes by the wayside early and often through the use of multiple cameras and general staging. Nevertheless, the film is a fun ride that shows the evils that bitterness and envy can inflict upon people who are insecure in their own skins.

The second film follows McDonald, now very much a part of the story, as he documents the trials relating to another Canadian rock group, Die Mannequin. Die Mannequin, a real rock group, is led by a singer/songwriter named Care Failure who thinks she is possessed by the soul of the late Joe Dick (spoiler alert: Joe Dick dies at the end of **HCL**). Intrigued by the idea of watching this woman, in whom he places no credibility at all, transform herself into a man he feels somewhat responsible for killing, McDonald takes the job and follows this woman and her band into the Great White North to watch them record their next album.

I found myself frequently distracted while watching **Hard Core Logo 2**. It's not that I didn't try, I sat there and really wanted to get into it, but there were several things getting in the way. The new digital aesthetic used in the film was distracting, especially since I did a double feature and the films look so very different. I didn't find anyone in the new film I could connect to emotionally, either. In **HCL**, I know those people, I am those disaffected pissed off youths turned angry adults. Care Failure isn't angry, she's vapid and bored, which makes her boring. Finally, and most importantly, I hated the music. It reeks of late 90s alternative rock radio, and that makes me want to vomit. So yeah, I didn't like **Hard Core Logo 2**.

Be that as it may, the two films appear on the same Blu-ray disc, so you don't get one without the other. The Blu-ray from Video Service Corp comes in a steelbook and presents both films adequately. There isn't a whole lot to crow about, however, as the HD transfer of the first film is good but not great, and the digital origins of the second film make it kind of hard to mess up. The extras on the disc weigh heavily in favor of the second film, simply because in 1996 people weren't as hip to getting behind the scenes footage for the secondary market as they are now. I would have loved a retrospective featurette of some kind for **Hard Core Logo**, but all we get is a commentary. **HCL2** gets a bunch of b-roll footage, EPK type stuff, and lots of interviews, lovely for context




## MOTION PICTURE Still Goes Slowly Where No One Wants to Go

In December 1979, Star Trek: The Motion Picture was a major letdown. Earlier in the decade, a handful of my school friends banded together to form the Science Fiction Club. Initially, we discussed Isaac Asimov's Foundation trilogy, Ray Bradbury's stories, and other disrespected literary works. We rode our bicycles to... [More »](#)

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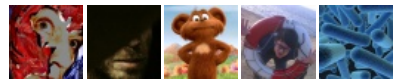
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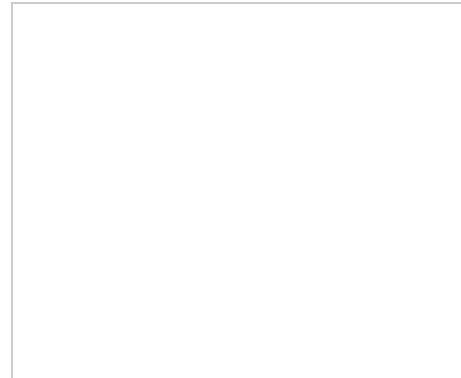
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gathering, but for a film I'm not very interested in, it's not that appealing.

There's almost something wrong feeling about watching movies about punk rock on Blu-ray. However, I'll get over that, and you will too once you get a peek at these. Now we just need **The Decline of Western Civilization** and **Dudes** to make their digital debuts, along with Blu-rays of **Suburbia**, **Another State of Mind**, and so many others. Upstart label Vinegar Syndrome is helping to fill the punxploitation void with a June release of **Punk Vacation**, but there's a long way to go! Start here, though, you won't be disappointed.

Wednesday, 1:30 pm 4 1 Submit Submit 0

**More about Hard Core Logo 2 on Twitch:**

- Joe Dick Returns In Bruce McDonald's HARD CORE LOGO 2 Trailer?
- Poster Premiere For Bruce McDonald's HARD CORE LOGO 2
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- HARD CORE LOGO 2: In The Can And Coming Soon.
- Hard Core Logo 2

**Tags:**

#Alex Cox #Bruce McDonald #Masters of Cinema

**More from Around the Web:**

- Order Masters of Cinema's Repo Man Blu-ray at Amazon UK
- Order Hard Core Logo 1 & 2 on Blu-ray at Amazon

**Around the Internet:**



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The first time I saw this was the director's cut DVD. I was never a fan of the show, saw a few episodes of Deep Space Nine and Voyager and thought it was OK. But I've become a big fan of the film...

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