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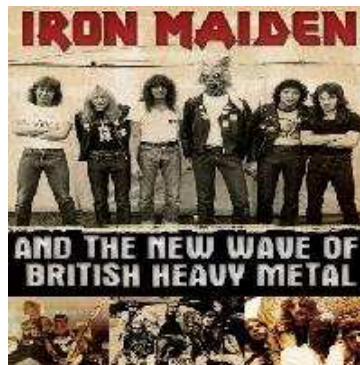
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Iron Maiden

Iron Maiden and the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (DVD)

Sexy Intellectual/ MVD Visual

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It seems like I always start documentary reviews with “Documentaries can be really hit and miss” so I’ll get straight to the point here. Iron Maiden and the New Wave of British Heavy Metal is an excellent documentary that any fan of metal’s early traditions should see. This DVD goes into great detail and it is retold largely by the people who were actually there when Iron Maiden were just a pub band and the majority of an entire genre of music weren’t even a twinkle in their mother’s eye yet.

Among the people to speak to the cameras for this documentary are renowned journalists Malcom Dome and Jerry Ewing, former Soundhouse club DJ Neal Kay, Iron Maiden alumni Paul Di’Anno and Dennis Stratton, Brian Tatler from Diamond Head, the entire band Girlschool, and Rob Weir from Tygers of Pan Tang. Together they put together the puzzle for the fans of how the New Wave of British Heavy Metal was launched from England’s small town street pubs, evolving into sold-out world tours and arguably the biggest merchandising blitz in the history of music. One of the most pleasing things to see here though is the inclusion of the importance of punk to the New Wave of British Heavy Metal. It’s noted more than once that the punk explosion was happening simultaneously and that the DIY ethic and the raw, intimate connection to the fans that metal is known well-known for, were lessons learned from the blossoming punk scene.

If you are looking for something that is seemingly accurate and is told through the mouths of the people who were there when it all began then this is the documentary for you. Although it focuses a lot on Iron Maiden, the central figure, in the movement, it also includes a lot of footage and interviews with Iron Maiden’s early influences and contemporaries, noting that although it was primarily Iron Maiden that exploded, many, many other bands were doing similar things in that area at the time. If you want to brush up on the history of metal, be sure to include this in your research.

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Bottom Line: The inside scoop from the people who lived it!

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

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