

Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards Blogs on Guitarists, Bassists, Musicians & Music

Classical-Modern Music Review
 Grego's Gapplegate Site: On My Own Music (under construction)
 Gapplegate Music Review (Jazz)
 Grego's Yakety-Yak



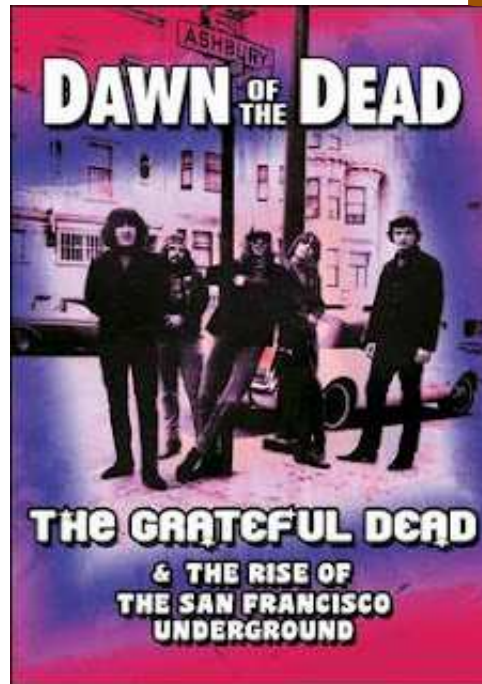
About This Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog covers music

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Dawn of the Dead: The Grateful Dead and the Rise of the San Francisco Underground



Anyone with an interest in the psychedelic San Francisco of the later '60s and/or the Dead will find the two-hours-plus DVD documentary *The Dawn of the Dead* (Sexy Intellectual 569) an excellent go. It covers via contemporary footage and a bevy of talking heads all the salient aspects of the story. Bluegrass, blues, rock and avant origins,

Kesey's Merry Pranksters, fellow travelers the Charlatans, Airplane, Quicksilver, Big Brother, the Fish, the Haight Ashbury scene, and the evolution of the Dead from a cover band to the premier psycho-jam band of the age.

There are insights into the early albums, the stylistic evolution and recording practices, the partial origins of the band's style in the Acid Test gatherings, where they were welcome to develop a loose freedom without the scrutiny of a crowd demanding pop hits, the disaster of Altamont in 1969 and a general turning away from the electric onslaught to a temporary acoustic orientation. The

releases of interest to guitarists, bassists, vocalists, musicians and other creative people. It is also for the music lover who does not play but instead forms the core audience musicians most love. You are in the inner circle of the "true listeners." If you care about what you hear and want to know more about what is out there, you are the person I have in mind as I write these postings. If music isn't an important part of your life this blog is probably not for you.

Various musical genres get attention on these pages: jazz and rock with guitarists and/or bassists playing a prominent role, classical music for the guitar, world music, blues, roots, electric music, vocalists.

I cover other jazz and improvisation on the Gapplegate Music Review blog (see link on this page) and modern classical and avant garde concert music on the new blogsite Classical-Modern Music Review (see link).

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story of the band parallels the story of the counter-culture of the times and the film does a decent job tying that together.

Good footage, intelligent interviews and a cohesive narrative makes this one of the better in-depth documentaries of the music of the era. Definitely catch it if you are into the history and origins of the Dead and the San Francisco Sound.

Posted by [Grego Applegate Edwards](#) at 5:25 AM

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