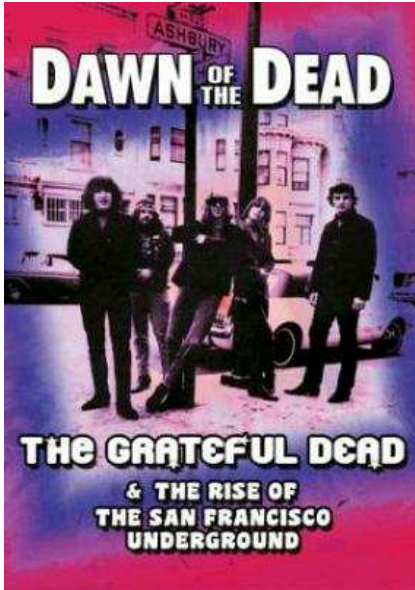


SEARCH



Like Email

MUSIC REVIEW

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

FEATURE FILM | THE GRATEFUL DEAD



BY JIM ALLEN

Documenting psychedelia's first flowering

If your idea of **The Grateful Dead's** milieu extends no further than a stadium full of tie-dyed, drug-addled disciples doing the generic hippie dance while their heroes embark on an endless jam, you'll have your eyes irreversibly opened by *The Dawn of the Dead*. This is the sort of documentary for which the phrase "in-depth" was

invented. Not only does it present a portrait of the late-'60s Bay Area milieu in which the band emerged, touching on everything from **Ken Kesey's** infamous Acid Tests and the sonic explorations of the Dead's psychedelic-rock peers to the ultra-altruistic efforts of self-appointed social workers The Diggers, it illuminates the band's background. In new and archival interviews with group members, manager **Rock Scully**, and many others, we get the lowdown on bass man **Phil Lesh** and keyboardist **Tom Constanten's** experiences in avant-garde classical academia (studying with **Berio, Boulez, and Stockhausen**), singer/organist **Ron "Pigpen" McKernan's** bad-boy blues beginnings, and the jug-band folk sojourns of the Dead's future frontmen, **Jerry Garcia** and **Bob Weir**. We find out how these disparate elements first came together as the rather garage-rocky Warlocks under the aegis of the nascent freak scene before blossoming into the acid Americana of the Grateful Dead.

TAGS: '60S ROCK, DOCUMENTARY, FOLK, PSYCHEDELIC, SAN FRANCISCO,

FACTS: RELEASED: APRIL 12, 2012 (SEXY INTELLECTUAL); RUNTIME: 138 MINUTES

RECOMMENDATIONS

MUSIC FEATURE

Memory Motel: From Straight to Bizarre
BY JIM ALLEN
Documentary covers Zappa's freak-fueled labels.

MUSIC REVIEW

Look Through Any Window: 1963-1975
THE HOLLIES
Britpop princes' tale in words and music.

MUSIC PROFILE

Sly and the Family Stone
Psychedelic Soul Masters
BY STEWART MASON
The first psychedelic soulsters to reach the kids as well...

MUSIC REVIEW

West
WOODEN SHJIPS
Drone-psych quartet sharpen their focus.

CRITICAL PICKS

MUSIC BOOKS TV&FILM CULTURE



Heaven
THE WALKMEN
A moody, honest record with emotional highs and low s.



Bloom
BEACH HOUSE
A record to get lost in



Sweet Heart, Sweet Light
SPIRITUALIZED
J. Spaceman takes flight again.



Mixed Emotions
TANLINES
Underground pop that's friendly and futuristic.

JOIN TO GET THE
CRITICAL MOB NEWSLETTER
enter email address **SUBMIT**

POPULAR POSTS



Mrs. Doubtfire recut as a psychological thriller
Who's really watching the kids?...



The Embarrassment in your living room
Hour-long tribute to '80s cult heroes...



Bullet in the Face teaser trailer
A controversial comedy teeming with violence. ...



New Leonard Cohen biography
New book provides intimate view of a poetic genius...



Mad Men Music: The Lovin' Spoonful
A bittersweet farewell...



Morrissey announces retirement
The world won't listen...



Superchunk releases summer single
Limited edition 7" available today...



South Park coming to a gaming console near you
The boys are back in town...

DAWN OF THE DEAD DOCUMENTARY TRAILER

CRITICAL QUESTIONS MUSIC

CRITICAL QUESTIONS MUSIC