



Dawn Of The Dead

The Grateful Dead And The Rise Of The San Francisco Underground Chrome Dreams DVD

In tracing the roots of The Dead, Dawn Of The Dead inextricably tells the story of the origins, growth and evolution of the San Francisco psychedelic underground such was The Dead's importance as standard bearers of the movement that indelibly stamped San Francisco's name on the musical map during the mid-late 60s.

From discussing the diverse musical backgrounds of individual band members Dawn Of The Dead details The Dead's beginnings in the unlikely shape of Mother McCree's Uptown Jug Champions, their temporary mutation into The Warlocks before their eventual transformation into The Dead proper. Simultaneously the DVD charts the growth of the San Francisco scene with the appearance of The Charlatans, Jefferson Airplane, Big Brother & The Holding Company and Quicksilver, the opening of key live venues including The Matrix and the Avalon and Carousel Ballrooms (later The Fillmore West) and the explosion of the LSD-fuelled counter culture centred on Haight Ashbury. The ramifications of Rock Scully's decision not to allow The Dead to be filmed for the Monterey Pop documentary are explored as the film explores the post Summer Of Love fortunes of the band and the subsequent fragmentation of the counter culture culminating in the chaos of Altamont where The Dead found themselves pulling out of a festival they had been instrumental in setting up. Jerry Garcia, Phil Lesh, Bob Weir and Bill Graham all make appearances via archive interview clips while the film makes great use of interviewees including The Dead's manager Rock Scully, Tom Constanten, Peter Albin, Mike Wilhelm, The Dead's publicist and biographer Dennis McNally, author and host of The Grateful Dead Hour David Gans and Merry Prankster Ken Babbs.

- Grahame Bent