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ALL MY LOVING (Isolde Films/BBC/Music Video Distributors)

When you talk about the definitive look at the '60s pop revolution begun by the Beatles, which subsequently changed much of society worldwide, there's no better period piece than the BBC production *All My Loving*. Simply put, it's probably the finest in-depth critical look at the era. Disturbing and controversial at the time (there's graphic Vietnam footage, for instance), it also packs some of the most amazing footage of rock's elite ever committed to film. Director Tony Palmer as college student attended an early Beatles press conference. He was disgusted by the superficiality of the whole thing, and Lennon questioned him about it. The two became friends on the spot, and years later, when Palmer moved to London and was a promising young director with a taste for classical music, the powers that be decided his Lennon connection made him just the man to do a piece on the pop revolution; they had no idea what he'd submit, but ran it anyway on late night TV. Lennon convinced many of the pop elite to come into the project. So, you get the Beatles (w/original interviews, and footage from the "Hey Bulldog" video shoot in Feb. 1968); Cream live; The Who taped in Peoria, IL on March 10, 1968, performing the most thrilling ever live auto-destruction sequence to "My Generation"; Pink Floyd live in '68; Donovan; live '68 American footage of the Jimi Hendrix Experience doing "Wild Thing" (one of the only Hendrix clips from that entire year, by the way); Eric Burdon; and Frank Zappa. There's also interviews and narration with author Anthony Burgess, with George Martin, Derek Taylor, and Who manager Kit Lambert. The commentary is incisive, the editing is nothing short of brilliant, and the artist footage is some of the most exciting in any '60s film or television program. As a bonus, there's a fascinating modern interview with the bemused Tony Palmer (who after all this time still can't believe the program got made). This isn't just the best archival video of the year, it's one of the most important music DVDs ever released, this year, next year, or in the next decade. A desert-island program.

– Kent H. Benjamin