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All My Loving

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All My Loving , one of, if not the most important music documentary of the 1960's pop culture era, is now finally available on DVD for the first time. And it's been a long time coming.

Initially broadcast by The BBC in 1968, this groundbreaking film was created by world-renowned music documentary director and historian Tony Palmer, whose other famous films include Frank Zappa's 200 Motels, Cream's Farewell Concert and Ginger Baker In Africa.

All My Loving was originally inspired when John Lennon and Paul McCartney challenged Palmer, who at the time concentrated on classical music, to create a film documenting the year in music for 1968, in a one-hour documentary.

Palmer met the challenge with flying colors, creating a powerful film that combines the groundbreaking music of the day with startling footage of current events and violence such as student demonstrations against the Viet Nam war, or a newsreel clip of Buddest burning to death. The music seemingly becomes the "backdrop of escape" to these trying times of society.

The music and interviews themselves are the real gems however, including rare clips and footage of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, Cream, Pete Townshend, Eric Burdon and the aforementioned Zappa.

Also of interest is a 2007 interview with Palmer in which he talks about meeting Lennon as a young student in 1963 and how he also met some of the artists featured in the film as well.

The film comes across with a certain edginess that might not be for everyone, as certain clips are definitely not for children or the faint of heart. However if you really want to get a feel for what started out as the "summer of love" and how it developed into the violence of 1968, All My Loving is effective, riveting and highly recommended.

- Joe Milliken