



All My Loving

When rock 'n' roll exploded on the American scene in the mid-'50s, preachers and politicians took it upon themselves to rage against music they considered to be godless, communistic, perverted and an invitation to mixed-race dancing. Their self-righteous crusade wasn't totally rejected until Sergeant E-5 **Elvis Aron Presley** returned home from Germany (with a new haircut and a drug habit) and those lovable Liverpoolian mop-tops appeared on **Ed Sullivan**. A decade later, middle-class Brits would worry that long hair, short skirts and loud, vacuous music were Satan's way of telling kids they weren't having enough fun. In 1968, just as this youthquake was about to crack the cultural firmament, the BBC commissioned a young Cambridge grad, **Tony Palmer**, to create a documentary explaining the phenomenon to parents and naysayers, alike. After it was completed, network dweebs deemed the 55-minute-long **All My Loving** unfit for mainstream consumption, and consigned it to a remote timeslot. Balanced to an almost comical degree, **All My Loving** introduced his wee-hours audience to dozens of American and homegrown rockers who would dominate the scene for many years to come. It was Palmer's great good fortune to have interviewed and befriended John Lennon as a student, and it was the Beatle who opened the filmmaker's eyes and ears to such artists as **Jimi Hendrix, Cream, the Who, Pink Floyd, Frank Zappa, Donovan, Manfred Mann**, the **Animals** and **Lulu**. Dated, to be sure, **All My Loving** nonetheless is a delightful footnote to 20th Century cultural history. The music is terrific, and, somehow, the interviews remain insightful ... especially Zappa's observations about the counterculture (or, in his case, the counter-counterculture). If *60 Minutes* had done the same sort of thing when hip-hop exploded, middle-class Americans wouldn't fear the day their kids begged for tickets to a Lil Jon concert. But, then, Palmer was fresh out of college when he made **All My Loving**, and that would make him 40 years too young get a gig on *60 Minutes*.