

NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

DVD SPOTLIGHT

"All My Loving" (BBC/MVD Visual) 4 Stars.

It may be hard for some to fathom, but there was a time when it was tough to find rock stars on television, especially rock stars being taken seriously on television.

That's just one of the reasons this 1968 Tony Palmer film on the increasing influences of rock music was considered so groundbreaking when it initially aired on England's BBC Television Network.

Now available on DVD for the first time, it is a bit dated, as one would expect considering the documentary is nearly 40 years old. Yet the vintage interviews and/or musical performances by the likes of Paul McCartney, Frank Zappa, Cream, Mick Jagger, the Who and Jimi Hendrix (check out the latter slipping a bit of "Strangers in the Night" into "Wild Thing") are of major historical value, and quite revelatory. Though the stars were almost all in their 20s, they were indeed intent on changing the world through music and though that thought may have been naive and idealistic, they did in many cases eventually have a huge influence on world events.

With topics ranging from sex and rock to the ongoing Vietnam War - complete with some still disturbing footage - Palmer crafted a documentary that stunned audiences at the time. It's still well worth seeing in 2007.

Bonus footage includes a lengthy recent interview with Palmer, his battles to get the film shown and much more.

(Kevin O'Hare is music writer for The Republican of Springfield, Mass.)

* This column shipped to 46 papers (7 million circulation) through the Newhouse News Service as well this week.