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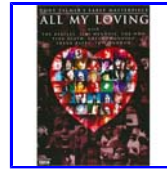
ALL MY LOVING

Directed by Tony Palmer

57 min, 1968

(MVD)

www.allmylovingdvd.com



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I was fortunate to attend a screening of *All My Loving* at the University of Illinois School of Music presented by its filmmaker, Tony Palmer. The film was shown at 11 p.m., perhaps to simulate its debut on the BBC back in 1968, when the controversial documentary aired after the network signed off and faded to black. Viewing the film today, it may seem difficult to understand just what all the fuss was about. Palmer's film simply took pop music and the rock counterculture very seriously. He listened to what the musicians had to say and attempted not to contain them within the narrow framework of the mass media's conceptions of pop and youth culture of the time. Formally, the film alternates between interviews with members of The Beatles, The Who, Cream, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Donovan, and Frank Zappa, musical performances, and graphic newsreel footage of the war. The result was a vision of the contemporary musical-political climate unlike anything that would have appeared on the BBC up to that point. By today's standards (so-called), such juxtapositions may seem *de rigueur*, notions that one could change the world through music might appear quaint and naïve, but in its day, this was groundbreaking stuff. If for no other reason, the film is fantastic for the sake of the rarely seen, vintage footage that it incorporates--you get a better sense of what it might have sounded (and felt) like in Peoria, Illinois, when The Who ritually destroyed their instruments on stage, you hear Zappa tell it like it is, you get taken away on a Pink Floyd psychedelic zone-out. With no voiceovers or editorial comment, Palmer tells his story in the editing--letting the footage speak for itself, and at the same time speaking through the footage in the process of putting it all together. The DVD also includes a detailed interview with Palmer looking back on the process of creating one of the more important documents in British television--and musical--history.

-EDWARD BURCH

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