



www.allmylovingdvd.com

Tony Palmer
All My Loving
ISOLDE FILMS



Although Tony Palmer believed his 1968 BBC documentary portended a great era of positive political change headed up by rock "heroes" like John Lennon and Mick Jagger, it had in reality much more in common with the "beware the military-industrial complex" section of Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential farewell speech.

To convey the importance of the era, Palmer interspersed stock-footage – hippies convulsing, Vietnamese guy getting shot in the head, screaming girls – with his interviews. Paul McCartney excretes some "let's not scare the old folks" bromides about "using power for good" and whatnot, his dopey grin cueing the kids that the "good" he'll be getting around to once the interview's over will involve drugs, three or four babes and boiling musk oil. That scene's timeless in that overpaid rock stars are still doing that shit. (If Bono were really playing for keeps, Bono would either burn himself alive or mush a cream pie in Dick Cheney's face. Pussy.)

Frank Zappa comments on "the war on apathy," positing that rock music is intended to "annoy people" until they "take a look at what's going on." Sure, Frank. Eric Burdon correctly notes that Hollywood has told the American Lie for (then) 30 years.

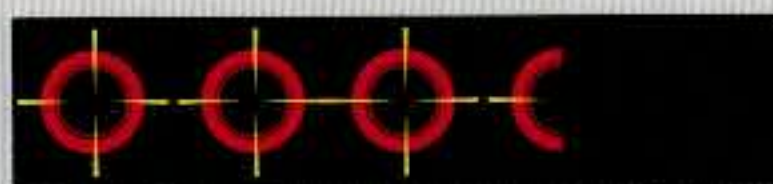
The real star of the piece, it turns out, is hack commercial-jingle producer Jim West, who unknowingly warns of rock's demise. Given the hypothetical task of creating a jingle to sell the Mona Lisa, he contorts his brain into a pretzel, fascinated with the challenge. His pioneering spirit lives on to this day: "keep buying bullshit, idiots."



www.twoloons.com

by Shaun Flagg

Two Loons For Tea
Nine Lucid Dreams
SARATHAN RECORDS



Nine Lucid Dreams is Seattle-based Two Loons for Tea's third album, and it might be their strongest effort to date. They exhibit a polish that affirms their accomplished musicianship. And here they are eager to demonstrate their continued creative growth.

The band is songbird Sara Scott and producer and multi-instrumentalist Jonathan Kochmer. Several guest musicians join them, adding a plethora of instruments including some of the more obscure variety (Omnichord, celeste, marimba and vibraphone). This adds a lush and organic texture to their sound. Further layering the sound with electronic keys and ethereal sounds adds depth and dimension.

Scott delivers warm verses wrapped in a bell-like timbre that resonates in beautiful, undulating waves; her voice is sublime and evokes memories of the great Ella Fitzgerald. Kochmer's masterful instrumental work adds a firm structure to the compositions.

The overall tone of the album is melancholic, with slower paced songs and introspective lyrics. At times sinuous and meandering, this approach can wear thin on those looking for a more upbeat listening experience. On opener "Sunset Room" we are greeted with Scott's soulful delivery; it is a down tempo immersion in layered vocals and rich instrumentals framed by an encompassing underwater bass sound.

It is clear the band has many influences, and they display this diverse background with the eclectic instrumentation. The lyrics are poetic on songs like "Toxic Shellfish in the Sun" with its imaginative visualizations. *Nine Lucid Dreams* is a strong and poignant effort: the only obstacle for listeners may be the temptation to be lulled to sleep.



www.underoath777.com

by Amanda Cuda

Underoath
777 DVD
SOLID STATE/
TOOTH & NAIL



Here's a tip for Florida-based rock band Underoath: if you want people to think you're a group of bad asses, don't release a DVD in which you behave like obnoxious teenagers on spring break.

For that is exactly what the members of Underoath do during much of "Moments Suspended in Time," the documentary-style feature that's the centerpiece of the band's DVD 777.

The feature starts promisingly enough, with members signing autographs for fans at a mall near where they grew up. We get a taste of the fans' passion when a young girl waiting for an autograph bounces around chanting "Underoath! Underoath! Underoath!" Another, goth-ier girl announces that she's been waiting in line for a free show by the band since 4 a.m. "Eastern Standard Time," she adds.

But the middle section of "Moments" mostly leaves the fans behind, following the band on tour as they promote their *Define the Great Line* album. At this point, it devolves into a poorly-made vacation video. We watch band members go cliff diving in New Zealand and visit the Eiffel Tower in France. We see them (no kidding) chug gallons of milk* and throw up in a parking lot in Canada.

The feature redeems itself near the end, with interesting footage of the band filming the video for "You're Ever So Inviting." The video is also included on the DVD, as well as clips for "Writing on the Walls" and "In Regards to Myself," and a concert video of the band's "MySpace Secret Show."

But 777's main course is "Moments," and it's not very filling.

* Milk?! —ed.