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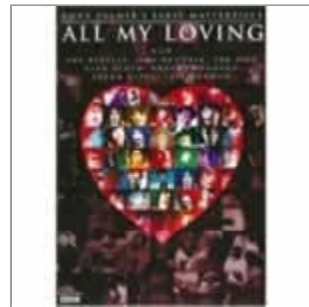
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REVIEWS

All My Loving

The Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix, The Who and Pink Floyd
Tony Palmer

The 40th year anniversary release of a ground breaking documentary on the major players of late sixties pop culture. Directed by Tony Palmer, featuring The Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix, The Who and Pink Floyd.



'As we live a life of ease, every one of us has all we need. Sky of blue and sea of green, in our yellow submarine.' Aptly the lyrics to this song of the day begin this documentary which first saw the light of day forty years ago. It was EMMY and BAFTA nominated director Tony Palmer's first feature and includes footage of The Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix, The Who and Pink Floyd.

The origins of the work began in 1963 when the director met John Lennon. Three years later he was commissioned by the BBC to make a film to 'explain this rock and roll stuff.' Top of the Pops and Jukebox Jury ruled the airwaves and serious musicians couldn't get on the telly. Palmer provided a forum for them and generations to come.

It is quite disconcerting to see figures who are now iconic introduced to an unaware public in a piece of work considered so disturbing and controversial that it sat on a shelf in the BBC for six months before final release in 1968. Seen by some as 'the grotesque mumblings of dry sodden youth,' Palmer engaged with the musicians developing a relationship with them. He debunked the myth of pop elitism while asserting that their compositions presented a fresh approach and were the natural replacement for classical music.

Shot with a fixed camera, this film is as disjointed in media as in subject matter with Palmer's clipped BBC English in the foreground. Donovan's hippy musings segue into Cream's dynamic riffs. Individuals talk about love as a dove flies through the air. The Beatles invariably feature heavily; McCartney on using music for good, Ringo Starr on sound, George Martin on editing and Lennon on the Maharishi. While George Harrison's mum persues her fan letters. Media intrusion and marketing is touched on by lesser players such as tin pan alley publishers and jingle executives, a real mixed bag.

Having previously been forced into musical constraints that they have now burst at the seams above all the players consider their work to be art. Be it Ginger Baker's instrument playing him or Frank Zappa annoying folk enough to consider the environment enough to change it. Pink Floyd set their controls to the heart of the sun while Pete Townsend appears as an angry young man smashing up his guitar. Jimi Hendrix performs mind blowing stage antics and Eric Burdon contrasts LSD trips with war.

This was the first British TV documentary to be networked in the United States. The peace and love idealism of Haight Ashbury and Strawberry Fields is interspersed with footage of children burning and mass graves. It is as relevant today as it was then; for Vietnam see Iraq. The difference is the political agenda. The film does not respond to the needs of accountants and focus groups but is propelled by pop stars naïve enough to believe that through the power of music they could change

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the world and 'live the life of ease.' The verdict on the resulting output is probably best summed up by one of the main protagonists, Paul McCartney, 'This is just great; absolutely what we meant.'

By: Mandy Williams

<http://www.allmylovingdvd.com/>



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[Tony Palmer - All My Loving \[1968\]](#)

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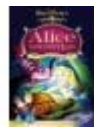
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