

Vox Jukebox - All My Loving

The long awaited release of Tony Palmer's 55-minute made-for-television produced in 1967 during the watershed of pop music is a fascinating and somewhat prophetic tour-de-force on the effect of pop music by those who created it.

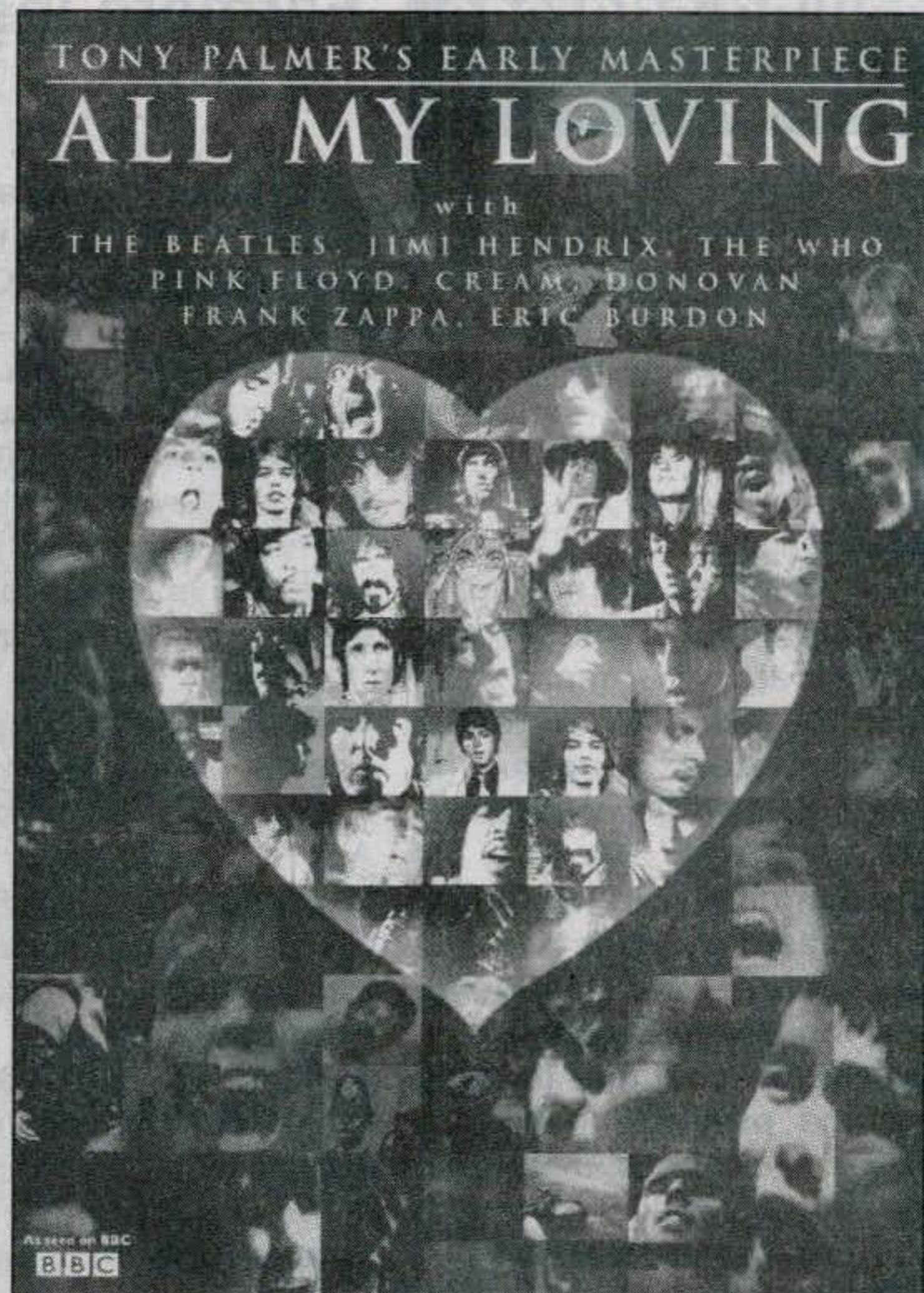
It is an uncompromising look at the metamorphosis of the music from the innocence of the early 1960's to the full-blown creative juggernaut that took hold of a generation and society itself. Palmer, a student at Cambridge at the time of the Beatles early success encountered John Lennon following a press conference and was asked by Lennon, "So, what did you think of it?" Palmer responded, "Well, I thought it was pretty silly." Lennon gave Palmer his London phone number and the "in" afforded Palmer a valuable connection just four years later as filmmaker for the BBC. The British company asked Palmer to produce a film to explain "all this pop music thing".

Lennon acted as the pivotal link for the filmmaker and recommended that he interview and film the pop/rock musicians who were a bit more edgy than "Top of the Pops" was used to. The film which has aged quite well interlaces rare footage of Jimi Hendrix, The Animals (with Eric Burdon), The Who,

Cream, Frank Zappa, Paul McCartney, and Pink Floyd along with revealing statements from the musicians themselves. Frank and sober observations from Eric Burdon and Zappa on the visceral effect of the music and the dreamy pie-in-the-sky dreams of Donovan present an intriguing balance of thought on the effects of popular music then and now.

A British music critic bemoaning the dearth of any "decent operas or classical music" prophetically saw the pop musicians of the late 60's as the ring-bearer for adding depth to what was once considered "low art", and would eventually fill the classical void. A remark of a Beatles stage musical 40 years before "Love", is remarkable. The film moves from each artist in a seamless blend of styles and musings from one of the most remarkable periods of modern music still unmatched to this day as far as scope and creative impulses. Palmer himself notes that Cream who had just recently taken hold of everyone's attention with their innovative blending of jazz, blues and rock that only twelve months later they would be disbanded.

There is some disturbing images within the film as well displaying the times that were the sixties and earlier footage from World War II's



atrocities as a parallel to the blind consumerism which was a part of "the business" as well.

All My Loving was created and produced when all of these artists were at the zenith of their creative powers and the popular music scene was swimming in a sea of changes. It is an impressive document from a time which has no equal. Highlights include Zappa's pointed laser at apathy both within and beyond the U.S. and Eric Burdon's "When I

think of all the good times that I've wasted having good times". Any music fan with an interest in the music and culture of the 1960's will find "All My Loving" as an indispensable addition to their video library. Palmer was also the filmmaker who produced Cream's last concert at the Royal Albert Hall and his comments on the difficulties of that task are one of the high points of the supplemental material. Four Stars [www.allmylovingdvd.com or www.mvdb2b.com]