



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Episode 9: Good Times - Rhythm And Blues (TPDVD137) - 4 STARS

Episode 10: Making Moonshine: Country Music (TPDVD138) - 4 STARS

Episode 11: Go Down, Moses! Songs Of War And Protest (TPDVD139) - 5 STARS

Episode 12: Hail! Hail! Rock 'N' Roll: Rock And Roll (TPDVD140) - 4 STARS

Previously available only as a 17-episode, five-DVD box, music documentarian Tony Palmer's sweeping popular music series All You Need Is Love is gradually being re-released with each episode on its own separately available DVD. Ever willing to stray from the expected path, episodes 9 through 12 are penetrating, occasionally disjointed and utterly unafraid to present controversial -- even inflammatory -- statements in vintage and recent interviews with the circus of eccentrics who've shaped modern music.

Mixing talk and performance, Good Times includes autobiographical song from Bo Diddley, Ike and Tina Turner's R&B and fervent gospel from Aretha Franklin. Amid a truly bizarre interview, Phil Spector picks acoustic guitar while singing "Then He Kissed Me." Tunesmiths Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller recall their classic "Hound Dog."

Forgoing a lot of country's biggest recent stars, Making Moonshine digs into its roots with vintage Jimmie Rodgers and Roy Acuff clips. Stern old Bill Monroe says of the bluegrass he pioneered, "It's pure; it's clean. There's no sex in it. There's no filth."

The series commendably presents both sides of issues. Go Down, Moses! offers patriotic as well as anti-war material, putting songs in the context of their times starting with Bing Crosby and The Andrews Sisters during World War II. Horrifying footage accompanies some music. Along with a Woody Guthrie video, we get rather cynical talk from Pete Seeger and Joan Baez. Leonard Cohen's sequences are riveting.

From the '50s and early '60s, Hail! Hail! Rock 'N' Roll gives much attention to Sun Records with talk from founder Sam Phillips and courteous, tactful Elvis Presley, while Jerry Lee Lewis is downright primal. All You Need being a British series, we also find Cliff Richard, Tommy Steele and the skiffle movement's engaging leader Lonnie Donegan. Like the other episodes, Hail! brings home the close ties between music and money.

Speaking of money, the five-DVD All You Need box gives more value for your dollar (or euro) than each episode's individual near-hour-long DVD. But viewers interested only in a specific topic can be happy with a single disc. www.voiceprint.co.uk; www.mvdb2b.com

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