



'All You Need Is Love'

Not rated, \$99.95

Before Ken Burns' *Jazz* or even *I Love the '80s*, Tony Palmer's *All You Need Is Love* set the standard for music documentaries.

At the urging of John Lennon, Palmer, a journalist and director, made a series of films on popular music that aired from 1976 to 1981. Some were shown only at the time on PBS and hadn't been released on video or DVD -- until today.

The 17 episodes of *All You Need Is Love*, running almost 15 hours, take up five discs.

Done as an oral history, the episodes feature interviews with musicians and people associated with the music business (many long gone), interspersed with performances. The series has amazing breadth, with episodes on blues, ragtime, jazz, vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, musicals, swing, R&B, country, folk, rock, the Beatles and a visit to Africa, where it all began.

It's also something of a time machine, looking at American and British culture during the past century, and it isn't always pretty.

The discs are unrated but include profanity, disturbing images, strange music -- and lots of bad hair.

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